



PROTOCOL

EURL-*Salmonella* Combined Proficiency test PPS-Food 2020

Detection of *Salmonella* in hygiene swabs

Introduction

This protocol describes the procedures for the combined Proficiency Test (PT) PPS-Food 2020 on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in hygiene swabs amongst the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for *Salmonella* in the EU. The samples consist of hygiene swabs contaminated with background flora and different concentrations of a *Salmonella* serovar.

Note that the samples are transported with cooling packs and need to be stored at 5°C upon arrival.

The prescribed method is EN ISO 6579-1:2017 (Microbiology of the food chain - Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of *Salmonella* - Part 1: Detection of *Salmonella* spp.). Additionally, laboratories (who are interested) can also perform a second detection method to analyse the sample, if this is (routinely) used in their laboratories. Only the results obtained with EN ISO 6579-1:2017 are used to assess the performance of the NRL. Please report relevant details of the method(s) used in the result form.

Objective

The main objective of the Proficiency Test is to evaluate the performance of the NRLs for *Salmonella* for their ability to detect *Salmonella* spp. at different contamination levels in chicken faeces.

Outline of the study

Each participant will receive one box containing 2 large plastic safety bags, packed with cooling elements. The plastic safety bags contain 16 numbered plastic bags, consisting of:

- 14 samples with hygiene swabs artificially contaminated with background flora and different levels of a *Salmonella* serovar (coded B1-B14);
- 2 (empty) sample bags, to be used for the control samples, being only BPW (coded C1), and the (own) positive control of the participating laboratory (coded C2).

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- 1 sample bag containing a small electronic temperature recorder (coded with lab code)

Upon arrival: all samples have to be stored at 5°C (± 3 °C) until the day of analyses (5 October 2020).

The sample bag containing the small electronic temperature recorder will measure the temperature during transport to the laboratory and storage of the samples at the laboratory. The sample bag with the recorder are coded with your lab code. **You are urgently requested to return this complete plastic bag with recorder and lab code to the EURL-*Salmonella*, at the day your laboratory starts the study (5 October 2020).** For this purpose a return envelope with a preprinted address label of the EURL-*Salmonella* is included.

Each box will be sent as biological substance category B (UN3373) by door-to-door (for non-EU-MS sometimes door-to-airport) courier service DHL. Please contact EURL-*Salmonella* when the parcel has not arrived at your laboratory by 1 October 2020 (this is 3 working days after the day of mailing).

The performance of the study will start on Monday 5 October 2020.

The documents necessary for performing the study are:

- Protocol EURL *Salmonella* combined Proficiency test PPS-Food 2020. Detection of *Salmonella* spp. in hygiene swabs (this document);
- Short guidance on electronic submission of data in the result form for the EURL *Salmonella* Proficiency Test on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in hygiene swabs;
- EN ISO 6579-1:2017. Microbiology of the food chain - Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of *Salmonella* - Part 1: Detection of *Salmonella* spp.

All data have to be reported through the result form. The link, which will also become available on the EURL-*Salmonella* website will be sent by email to the participants. Submission of data has to be finalised on 31 **October 2020** (23:59 h CET) at the latest. **Mind that the electronic result form is no longer accessible after this deadline!** In case you foresee problems with the deadline, please contact us beforehand. The EURL will prepare a summary report soon after the study to inform all NRLs on the overall results.



Timetable

EURL- *Salmonella* Proficiency Test Primary Production Stage – Food 2020 Detection of *Salmonella* in hygiene sponges

Week	Date	Subject
27	Week of 29 June	E-mailing of the link to the registration form for the Proficiency Test. Please register by 30 august at the latest.
39	Week of 21 September	E-mailing the link for the result form to the participants. E-mailing of the protocol and instructions for the result form to the NRLs. Preparation of media by the NRLs.
40	Week of 28 September	Shipment of the parcels to the participants as Biological Substance Category B (UN 3373).
41	Monday 5 October	Performance of the Proficiency Test.
44	31 October 2020	Deadline for completing the result form: 31 October 2020 (23:59h CET). After this deadline the result form will be closed.

If you have questions or remarks about this Proficiency Test, or in case of problems, please contact:

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