
PROTOCOL



EURL-*Salmonella* Proficiency test PPS 2021
Detection of *Salmonella* in chicken faeces adhering to boot socks

Introduction

This protocol describes the procedures for the Proficiency Test (PT) PPS 2021 on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in matrix amongst the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for *Salmonella* in the EU. The samples consist of chicken faeces adhering to boot socks contaminated with 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* on their ability to detect *Salmonella* spp. at different contamination levels in chicken faeces adhering to boot socks.

Outline of the study

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

- 14 samples with chicken faeces adhering to boot socks samples artificially contaminated with different levels of a *Salmonella* serovar (coded B1-B14);

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

Upon arrival: all samples have to be stored at 5 °C (\pm 3 °C) until the day of analyses (27 September 2021).

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*, on the day your laboratory starts the study (27 September 2021).** For this purpose, a return envelope with a preprinted address label of the EURL-*Salmonella* is included.

Each box will be sent as a biological substance category B (UN3373) by door-to-door (for non-EU-MS sometimes door-to-airport) courier service DHL. Please contact EURL-*Salmonella* if the parcel has not arrived at your laboratory by 30 September 2021 (this is three working days after the day of dispatch).

The performance of the study will start on Monday 27 September 2021.

The documents necessary for performing the study are:

- Protocol EURL *Salmonella* Proficiency test PPS 2021. Detection of *Salmonella* spp. in chicken faeces adhering to boot socks (this document);
- Short instructions on electronic submission of data in the result form for the EURL *Salmonella* Proficiency Test on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in chicken faeces adhering to boot socks;
- 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 **29 October 2021** (23:59 h CET) at the latest. **Remember that the electronic result form is no longer accessible after this deadline!** If you foresee problems with meeting the deadline, please contact us beforehand. The EURL will prepare a summary report soon after the study to inform all NRLs about the overall results.

Timetable



EURL- *Salmonella* Proficiency Test Primary Production Stage 2021
Detection of *Salmonella* in chicken faeces adhering to boot socks

Week	Date	Subject
27	Week of 26 July	E-mailing the link to the registration form for the detection study. Please register by 30 August 2021 at the latest.
38	Week of 20 September	Shipment of the parcels to the participants as Biological Substance Category B (UN 3373).
38	Week of 20 September	E-mailing the link for the result form to the participants. E-mailing the protocol and instructions for the result form to the NRLs. Preparation of media by the NRLs.
39	Monday 27 September	Performance of the Proficiency Test.
43	29 October 2021 at the latest	Deadline for completing the result form: 29 September 2021 (23:59h CET) After this deadline the result form will be closed
	December 2021	Interim Summary report

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

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