

To all broiler producers
copy to broiler processors

Salmonella testing of broiler flocks

Dear Sir/Madam

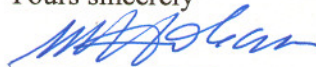
I am writing to draw your attention to new requirements for salmonella testing of broiler flocks which came into place in January 2009. This is part of an EU-wide initiative to reduce salmonella levels in poultry.

The main requirements of the new legislation as far as you are concerned are:

1. The flockowner is required to sample every flock within 3 weeks before the birds are moved to the slaughterhouse.
2. The sampling method is detailed in Annex 1 of this letter.
3. Samples must be sent by express mail or courier within 25 hours of collection to an approved laboratory for testing at the flockowner's expense. A list of approved laboratories is contained in Annex II.
4. A record of samples taken (date of sampling, description of sample, identity of building or group of buildings sampled) and the laboratory result should be kept for three years.
5. Birds may not leave for the slaughterhouse until test results are known. All birds presented for slaughter must be accompanied by written confirmation of test results. A revised version of the food chain information form will be issued to accommodate this additional information. Alternatively, the results may be presented on a separate document or communicated by some other suitable means in advance of or on the day of slaughter.
6. As from 1 June 2009 birds arriving at slaughterhouses that are not accompanied by test results will be treated as being Salmonella positive and slaughtered and processed accordingly.
7. Flockowners should keep a record of the movement of birds onto and off their premises including: date of movement, number of birds moved, identity of building into which or from which the birds were moved, and name and address of premises from which the birds were brought or to which they were sent.

Department inspectors will conduct occasional sampling and check the records and results of private testing. Please retain these records and results at the farm for this purpose. The legislation on this subject is the European Communities (Control of salmonella in broilers) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 64 of 2009).

Yours sincerely



Marie Hoban
2 April 2009.

Annex 1

Method of sampling

(i) At least two pairs of boot/sock swabs shall be taken. For free range flocks of broilers, samples shall only be collected in the area inside the house. All boot/sock swabs must be pooled into one sample.

In flocks with less than 100 broilers, where it is not possible to use boot/sock swabs as access to the houses is not possible, they may be replaced by hand drag swabs, where the boot swabs or socks are worn over gloved hands and rubbed over surfaces contaminated with fresh faeces, or if not feasible, by other sampling techniques for faeces fit for the intended purpose.

Before putting on the boot/sock swabs, their surface shall be moistened with maximum recovery diluents (MRD: 0,8 % sodium chloride, 0,1 % peptone in sterile deionised water), or sterile water or any other diluent approved by the national reference laboratory referred to in Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003. The use of farm water containing antimicrobials or additional disinfectants shall be prohibited. The recommended way to moisten boot swabs shall be to pour the liquid inside before putting them on. Alternatively, boot swabs or socks may be autoclaved with diluents within autoclave bags or jars before use. Diluents may also be applied after boots are put on using a spray or wash bottle. It shall be ensured that all sections in a house are represented in the sampling in a proportionate way. Each pair should cover about 50 % of the area of the house.

On completion of sampling the boot/sock swabs shall be carefully removed so as not to dislodge adherent material. Boot swabs may be inverted to retain material. They shall be placed in a bag or pot and labelled

Or

(ii) Alternatively, one pair of boots swabs shall be taken, covering 100% of the area of the house, if combined with a dust sample, collected from multiple places throughout the house from surfaces with visible dust.

Annex II
European communities (Control of salmonella in broilers) Regulations 2009
(S.I. No. 64 of 2009)

Laboratories approved to conduct salmonella testing of broiler flocks

Anser Laboratories Ltd
69A Killyman St
Moy BT7I
Co. Tyrone

Monaghan Veterinary Laboratory
Clones Road
Monaghan

Complete Laboratory Solutions
Ros Muc
Connemara
Co. Galway

Oldcastle laboratories Ltd
Cogan Street
Oldcastle
Co. Meath

Enva Ireland Ltd
Raheen Industrial Estate
Ringaskiddy Road
Monkstown
Co Cork

Q-Lab Ltd
P.O. Box 27
Kerlogue Industrial Estate
Drinagh
Co Wexford

Microlab Ltd
Drumillard Little
Monaghan Road
Castleblaney
Co. Monaghan

Mid-Antrim Laboratory Service
42A Broughshane Rd
Ballymena
Co. Antrim

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