



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

Export to Finland and Sweden

Notes for Guidance for the Official Veterinarian and Exporter

November 2021



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PB Salmonella NFG

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

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Breeding Poultry and Day Old Birds

1. The additional requirements for Salmonella testing laid down in **Commission Decision 2003/644/EC** apply only to:

Exports of live poultry to **Finland or Sweden** which are either

- adult birds intended as a breeding generation or
- Day Old birds intended as either breeding or productive generations.

Note that the requirements apply to all species of poultry in these categories, but they do NOT apply to hatching eggs destined for Finland or Sweden.

2. The flock of origin must be isolated for not less than 15 days prior to export.
3. The flock of origin must undergo a microbiological test prior to export; however there is no stipulation about how long before export the test must take place.
4. The sampling protocol may follow that laid down in EC Regulation 1003/2005, as implemented in England by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007, and equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Breeding flocks of chickens (*Gallus gallus*) have been legally obliged to follow this testing regime since January 2007, and provided that they have been tested according to this protocol with negative results throughout the life of the flock, they will meet the requirements of Directive 2003/644/EC **without the need for any additional testing**.

Breeding flocks of turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) are legally required to undergo the same testing from January 2010.

5. Breeding flocks which have NOT been tested according to the protocol of the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007 or equivalent legislation (i.e. species other than chickens and turkeys) must follow the testing protocol in the annex to these Notes.

Laying Hens

1. The additional requirements for Salmonella testing laid down in **Commission Decision 2004/235/EC** apply only to:

Exports of poultry to Finland or Sweden, which are

- Birds of any age from 4 days upwards, and are
- Intended for the production of eggs for human consumption.

2. The rules applying to laying hens are:
 - (i) the flock of origin must be isolated for 15 days prior to export.
 - (ii) a microbiological test must be carried out during the 10 days prior to export.

(iii) the microbiological test must be capable of detecting the following serotypes:

Salmonella gallinarum, S.pullorum, S.enteritidis, S.bertha, S.typhimurium, S.thompson, S.infantis.

(iv) samples must consist of fresh faeces collected at random from the flock of origin. The sampling method and the number of samples should follow that laid down in the Annex to these Notes.

Annex

Salmonella Testing Protocol

A. Breeding Flocks in Rearing or Moulting Phase

The samples to be taken must comprise:

- 1) in the case of flocks of origin which are not in lay, either because they are still in the rearing phase or are undergoing a moult, samples must consist of fresh faeces. Separate samples of fresh faeces each weighing not less than 1g must be collected at random from a number of sites in the building where the flock is kept.
- 2) the number of fresh faeces samples to be taken in order to provide a statistically representative number should be as follows:

Number of birds kept in a building	Number of faeces samples
1 – 24	(number equal to the number of birds up to a maximum of 20)
25 - 29	20
30 - 39	25
40 - 49	30
50 - 59	35
60 - 89	40
90 - 199	50
200 - 499	55
500 or more	60

B. Breeding Flocks in Lay

- 1) Breeding flocks whose eggs are hatched at a hatchery with a total incubator capacity of less than 1,000 eggs must be sampled on the holding and the samples must consist of fresh faeces taken as in A above.

- 2) Breeding flocks whose eggs are hatched at a hatchery with a capacity of more than 1,000 eggs must be sampled through the hatchery and the samples must consist of:

Either

- a) pooled samples of meconium taken from 250 chicks hatched from each breeding flock;

Or

- b) carcasses of 50 chicks which are dead-in-shell or culled from a batch of hatching eggs from each breeding flock.

C. Laboratory Testing Procedure

- 1) The laboratory method for the isolation of Salmonella should be the modified ISO 6579: 2002 method using modified semi-solid Rappaports-Vassiliadis (MSRV) medium, as described in Regulation EC 1003/2005. This is the method which is now routinely used under the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007, and is considered most suitable for isolating Salmonellas of human significance such as *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium*.
- 2) The tests must be carried out in a Defra-approved laboratory. This means either Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Laboratory, or a laboratory approved for Salmonella culture under the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Order 2007 or equivalent legislation.