PROTOCOL OF THE ELEVENTH INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON STUDY (XI, 2006) ON SEROTYPING AND PHAGE TYPING OF *SALMONELLA* STRAINS ORGANISED BY CRL-*SALMONELLA*

Introduction

The Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) - *Salmonella* organises the eleventh interlaboratory comparison study on the typing of *Salmonella* strains amongst the National Reference Laboratories for *Salmonella* (NRLs-*Salmonella*) and EnterNet laboratories (ENLs). The main objective of this typing study is to test the performance of the participating laboratories for serotyping and phagetyping of *Salmonella* spp. In contradiction with the former studies antimicrobial resistance testing is no longer included in this study.
For the NRLs-*Salmonella* the performance of the study will take place in week 10 (starting on 6 March 2005) or one week earlier or later. For the ENLs the study will be performed a few weeks later. All data will be reported in the testreport, send to the CRL-*Salmonella* and will be used for analysis. The data on phage typing will be sent to CRL-*Salmonella* and to Elizabeth de Pinna, Health Protection Agency (HPA), London, UK.

Transportation of the *Salmonella* strains to the NRLs, - and ENLs-*Salmonella*.

CRL-*Salmonella* will mail to the NRLs the parcels as diagnostic specimens with a door-to-door courier to your laboratory, so you don't need to pick up the strains at the airport as was the case in previous typing studies. The shipment of the strains for phage typing to the NRLs and the shipment of all strains to the ENLs will be arranged by Elizabeth de Pinna, HPA, London, UK.

Serotyping

A total number of 20 *Salmonella* strains (numbered S-1 till S-20), supplied by the CRL-*Salmonella*, have to be serotyped. The method routinely performed in your laboratory can be used in this study. Each laboratory is allowed to send strains for serotyping to another reference laboratory in their country, if this is part of the normal routine procedure.
The results will be evaluated by the CRL-*Salmonella*. Definite conclusions can only be based on agglutination with mono-specific antisera. Otherwise it is better to identify the strains by giving the antigenic formula as far as detected. The evaluation of the serotyping results will be performed according to Table 1.

Table 1 Guidelines for evaluation

Results	Evaluation	Abbreviation
Autoagglutination or Incomplete set of antisera (outside range of antisera)	Not typable	NT
Partly typable due to incomplete set of antisera or Part of the formula (for the name of the serovar) or No name serovar	Partly correct	+/-
Wrong serovar or mixed sera formula	Incorrect	-

Phagetyping

The laboratories will receive a parcel containing 20 *Salmonella* cultures (supplied by HPA, London) for phage typing:

10 strains of *S.* Enteritidis numbered E1-E10
10 strains of *S.* Typhimurium numbered M11-M20

The evaluation of the phage typing results will be done in collaboration with Elizabeth de Pinna, HPA, London, UK.

If you have questions or remarks about the interlaboratory comparison study, please contact:

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Timetable of the eleventh interlaboratory comparison study (2006) on serotyping and phage typing of *Salmonella* spp.

Week	Date	Topic
6	6-10 February	Mailing of the protocol and test report 2006 (to NRLs and ENLs)
9	27 February- 3 March	Mailing the strains to the participants (NRLs) After arrival at the laboratory the strains need to be subcultured and stored until the performance of the typing. If the parcel has not arrived at your lab on 4 March, please do contact the CRL immediately.
10	6-10 March	Starting with the identification of the strains.
12	20-24 March	Completion of the test report. Sending of the complete report to the CRL by e-mail. The original test report will be send to the CRL by mail. Send the results of the phage typing also to HPA, London (o*nly printed versions of the test report will be accepted).* **Deadline for NRLs: End of March 2004** **Deadline for ENLs: End of April 2004**
13	27-31 March and onwards	A printed version of the individual results will be send to all NRLs and ENLs by CRL. Checking of the results on this printed version will be done by the NRLs and ENLs. NRLs and ENLs will inform CRL whether their results are correct. If CRL does not receive a reaction within one week after receipt of the printed version the CRL will consider the results as correct.

N.B. For the ENLs the data in the time table may be one or two weeks later.