PROTOCOL OF THE ELEVENTH INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON STUDY (XII, 2007) 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 11 (starting on 12 March 2007) 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:

Petra Berk
P.O. Box 1
3720 BA Bilthoven
tel. number: +31-30-2744284
fax. number: +31-30-2744434
e-mail: petra.berk@rivm

If you have questions or remarks on the phage typing please contact:

Elizabeth de Pinna
Public Health Laboratory Service, Laboratory of Enteric Pathogens
61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5HT
tel. number: + 44-20-8327 6136
fax number: + 44-20-8905 9929
e-mail: Elizabeth.DePinna@HPA.org.uk

Timetable of the eleventh interlaboratory comparison study (2007) on serotyping and phage typing of *Salmonella* spp.

Week	Date	Topic
7	12-16 February	Mailing of the protocol and test report 2007 (to NRLs and ENLs)
10	5-9 March	Mailing of the parcels to the participants (NRLs) as diagnostic specimens by door-to-door courier service. After arrival at the laboratory the strains need to be subcultured and stored until the performance of the typing. **If you did not receive the parcel at 9 March, do contact the CRL immediately.**.
11	12-16 March	Starting with the identification of the strains.
13	26-30 March	Send the completed test report by email to CRL-*Salmonella*. If the test report is e-mailed to the CRL it is not longer necessary to sent the original test report as well, unless it is not legible (to be indicated by CRL-*Salmonella*). Send the results of the phage typing also to HPA, London **Deadline for NRLs: 30 March 2007** **Deadline for ENLs: 16 April 2007**
14	2-6 April and onwards	Data input at CRL-*Salmonella* and sending these data by CRL to NRLs (and later ENLs) by email for checking. Checking the results by the participants (NRLs & ENLs) and they will inform CRL whether their results are correct. If CRL does not receive a reaction within one week after receipt of this email the CRL will consider the results as correct.