

**PROTOCOL OF THE THIRTEENTH INTERLABORATORY
COMPARISON STUDY (XIII, 2008) ON SEROTYPING AND PHAGE
TYPING OF *SALMONELLA* STRAINS ORGANISED BY CRL-
*SALMONELLA***

Introduction

The Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) - *Salmonella* organises the thirteenth interlaboratory comparison study on the typing of *Salmonella* strains amongst the National Reference Laboratories for *Salmonella* (NRLs-*Salmonella*).

The main objective of this typing study is to test the performance of the participating laboratories for serotyping and phage typing of *Salmonella* spp.

The study will take place in week 48 (starting on 24 November 2008) or one week earlier or 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-*Salmonella*.

CRL-*Salmonella* will mail both the serotyping and phage typing strains in one parcel. The strains will be send as diagnostic specimens with a door-to-door courier to your laboratory.

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.

**IN THE TEST REPORT OF THIS STUDY 2 EXTRA TABLES ARE ADDED.
PLEASE INDICATE THE REACTIONS FOR EVERY STRAIN-ANTISERUM
COMBINATION USED. THIS SUPPLIES THE CRL-*SALMONELLA* WITH MORE
INFORMATION IN CASE OF ANY INCORRECT RESULTS.**

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 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 13th interlaboratory comparison study (2008) on serotyping and phage typing of *Salmonella* spp.

Week	Date	Topic
45	3-7 November	Mailing of the protocol and test report 2008
47	17-21 November	Mailing of the parcels to the participants 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 21 November, do contact the CRL immediately.
48	24-28 November	Starting with the identification of the strains.
50	8-12 December	Send the completed test report by email to CRL- <i>Salmonella</i> . 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- <i>Salmonella</i>). Deadline: 12 December 2008
51	15-19 December and onwards	Data input at CRL- <i>Salmonella</i> and sending these data by CRL to NRLs by email for checking. Checking the results by the participants (NRLs) 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.