

PROTOCOL

COMBINED FOOD-PPS INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON STUDY ON DETECTION OF *SALMONELLA* spp. IN HYGIENE SWABS

Organised by EURL-*Salmonella*, 2017

Introduction

This protocol describes the procedures for the combined Food-PPS interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in hygiene swabs amongst the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for *Salmonella* in the EU. The samples consist of hygiene swabs contaminated with background flora and different concentrations of *Salmonella*.

Note that the samples are transported with cooling packs and need to be stored at 5°C upon arrival.

The prescribed method is preferably EN ISO 6579-1:2017 (Microbiology of the food chain - Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of *Salmonella* - Part 1: Detection of *Salmonella* spp.). Additionally, laboratories (who are interested) can also perform their 'own' PCR method on the samples, if this is (routinely) used in their laboratories.

Objective

The main objective of the interlaboratory comparison study is to evaluate the performance of the NRLs for *Salmonella* for their ability to detect *Salmonella* spp. at different contamination levels in hygiene swab samples.

Outline of the study

Each participant will receive one box containing 2 large plastic safety bags, packed with cooling elements. The plastic safety bags contain 20 numbered plastic bags, consisting of:

- 18 samples of hygiene swabs artificially contaminated with different levels of a *Salmonella* serovar (coded B1-B18);
- 2 samples of sterile hygiene swabs, to be used for the control samples, being only BPW (coded C1), and the (own) positive control of the participating laboratory (coded C2).

Upon arrival: all samples have to be stored at 5°C (± 3 °C) until the day of analyses (9 October 2017).

One safety bag will also contain the small electronic temperature recorder to measure the temperature during transport to the laboratory and storage of the samples at the laboratory. The recorder will be packed in a plastic bag coded with your lab code. **You are urgently requested to return this complete plastic bag with recorder and lab code to the EURL-*Salmonella*, at the day your laboratory starts the study (9 October 2017).** For this purpose a return envelope with a preprinted address label of the EURL-*Salmonella* is included.

Each box will be sent as biological substance category B (UN3373) by door-to-door (for non-EU-MS sometimes door-to-airport) courier service DHL. Please contact EURL-*Salmonella* when the parcel has not arrived at your laboratory by 5 October 2017 (this is 3 working days after the day of mailing).

The performance of the study will start in week 41 (starting on Monday 9 October 2017).

The documents necessary for performing the study are:

- Protocol Combined Food-PPS Interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in hygiene swabs (this document);
- Instructions for the web based test report Combined Food-PPS Interlaboratory comparison study on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in hygiene swabs;
- EN ISO 6579-1:2017. Microbiology of the food chain - Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of *Salmonella* - Part 1: Detection of *Salmonella* spp.

The media to be used for this study will not be supplied by the EURL

All data have to be reported through an electronic result form. The link, which will also become available on the EURL-*Salmonella* website, and the password for this form will be sent by email to the participants. Submission of data has to be finalised on **2 November 2017** (23:59 h CET) at the latest. **Mind that the electronic result form is no longer accessible after this deadline!** In case you foresee problems with the deadline, please contact us beforehand. The EURL will prepare a summary report soon after the study to inform all NRLs on the overall results.

Time table of the combined Food-PPS interlaboratory comparison study on detection of *Salmonella* in hygiene swabs (2017)

Week (2017)	Dates	Subject
39	25 – 29 September	Mailing of the protocol and instructions for the web based test report to the NRLs by email. Sending the link and the password for the electronic results form to the participants by email.
40	2 October	Mailing of parcels to the NRLs as Biological Substance Cat. B (UN3373) by door-to-door courier service Preparation of media by the NRLs
41	9 October	Performance of the study
44	<u>2 November</u>	Deadline for completing the electronic submission of results: 2 November 2017 (23:59h CET) After this deadline the electronic submission form will be closed.

If you have questions or remarks about this study, or in case of problems, please contact:

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