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# PROTOCOL



EURL-*Salmonella* Proficiency Test PPS  
Detection of *Salmonella* in chicken faeces samples

2023

## Introduction

This protocol describes the procedures for the Proficiency Test (PT) PPS 2023 on the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in chicken faeces amongst the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for *Salmonella* in the EU.

## Objective

The main objective of the Proficiency Test is to evaluate the performance of the NRLs for *Salmonella* on their ability to detect *Salmonella* spp. at different contamination levels in chicken faeces.

## Outline of the study

Each participant will receive one box containing 1 large plastic safety bag, packed with cooling elements. The plastic safety bags contain 16 numbered plastic bags, consisting of:

- 14 samples with chicken faeces artificially contaminated with different levels of *Salmonella* (coded **B1-B14**);
- 2 empty sample bags to be used for your own control samples. The sample bag coded with C1 shall be used for the procedure control (add BPW only. The other sample bag coded with C2, shall be used for your own positive *Salmonella* control (add BPW to the bag and spike it with your own *Salmonella* positive control).
- 1 sample bag containing a small electronic temperature recorder (coded with lab code). This sample bag is placed in between the faeces samples.

Note: the control samples can be performed either way, but reporting of the results should be as described: 'C1' is the procedure control (BPW only) and 'C2' is the positive control with own *Salmonella*.

Each box will be sent on Monday 25 September 2023 as a biological substance category B (UN3373) by door-to-door (for non-EU-MS sometimes door-to-airport) courier service DHL. Please contact EURL-*Salmonella* if the parcel has not arrived at your laboratory by 28 September 2023 (this is three working days after the day of dispatch).

**Upon arrival of the parcel:**

- **Store the complete (content of the) safety bag at 5 °C ( $\pm$  3 °C) until the start of the analyses (2 October 2023).**
- **Please store the temperature recorder together with the faeces samples until the start of the study.**

***Temperature recorder***

The small electronic temperature recorder will measure the temperature during transport and storage of the samples at the laboratory. The sample bag and the temperature recorder are coded with your laboratory code.

**You are urgently requested to return this complete sample bag with temperature recorder (and laboratory code) to the EURL-*Salmonella*, at the day your laboratory starts the study (2 October 2023).** For this purpose, a return envelope with a preprinted address label of the EURL-*Salmonella* is included. Only a stamp is needed before sending it back.

***Analyses of the samples***

The performance of the PT will **start on Monday 2 October 2023**.

The prescribed method is EN ISO 6579-1:2017(/A1:2020) and the underlying EN ISO documents, e.g. the EN ISO 6887 series for preparation of test samples. Especially the procedure of EN ISO 6887-4:2017 should be respected.

Additionally, laboratories (who are interested) can also perform a second detection method (e.g. PCR, qPCR, Vidas, etc.) to analyse the samples, if this is (routinely) used in their laboratories. These results can be reported in addition to the results of the prescribed method in the result form. Only the results obtained with EN ISO 6579-1:2017(/A1:2020) are used to assess the performance of each NRL-*Salmonella*.

The media to be used for this study will not be supplied by the EURL-*Salmonella*.

***Reporting***

All results and relevant details of the method(s) used have to be reported through the result form. The link will be sent by e-mail to the participants.

Submission of data has to be finalised on **27 October 2023** (23:59 h CET) at the latest. **Mind that the result form is no longer accessible after this deadline!** In case you foresee problems with the deadline, please contact us beforehand.

In case of deviating results, the EURL-*Salmonella* may ask the NRLs-*Salmonella* to send additional information or to perform additional tests. Therefore, we ask to conserve one *Salmonella* confirmed colony from each positive sample (B1-B14 and C1 and C2).

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The EURL-*Salmonella* will prepare a summary report soon after the PT to inform all NRLs-*Salmonella* on the overall results.

**Relevant documents**

- Protocol EURL *Salmonella* Proficiency test PPS 2023. Detection of *Salmonella* spp. in chicken faeces samples (this document);
- EN ISO 6579-1:2017/A1:2020. Microbiology of the food chain - Horizontal method for the detection, enumeration and serotyping of *Salmonella* - Part 1: Detection of *Salmonella* spp.
- ISO 6887-1 & 4:2017 Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs – Preparation of test samples, initial suspension and decimal dilutions for microbiological examination. Part 1: General rules for the preparation of the initial suspension and decimal dilutions. Part 4: Specific rules for the preparation of miscellaneous products.

# Timetable



EURL-*Salmonella* PT Primary Production Stage 2023

Detection of *Salmonella* in chicken faeces samples

| Week  | Date                         | Subject  |
|-------|------------------------------|--|
| 27-35 |                              | E-mailing the link to the registration form for the Proficiency Test.<br>Please <b>register by 31 August 2023</b> at the latest.   |
| 39    |                              | E-mailing the link for the result form to the participants.<br>E-mailing the protocol and instructions for the result form to the NRLs.<br>Preparation of media by the NRLs. |
| 39    | Monday 25 September 2023     | Shipment of the parcels to the participants as Biological Substance Category B (UN 3373).  |
| 40    | <b>Monday 2 October 2023</b> | <b>Start performance of the Proficiency Test.</b>  |
| 43    | 27 October at the latest     | Deadline for completing the result form: <b>27 October 2023 (23:59h CET)</b><br>After this deadline the result form will be closed.  |
|       | December 2023                | Interim summary report   |

If you have questions or remarks about this Proficiency Test, please contact:

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