

**National Veterinary Services Laboratories**  
***Salmonella* Serotyping**  
**Proficiency Test Summary**

- 1. Composition of proficiency test panel:** The panel consists of 10 isolates of *Salmonella* of various serotypes inoculated into Trypticase Soy Agar (TSA). The samples are labeled with numbers 1-10. The test is offered in conjunction with the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP).
- 2. Cost of proficiency test:** Click [here](#) to view current NVSL Catalog of Reagents. Additional information on diagnostic reagents including: ordering, payments, shipping details and fees can be located at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/lab\\_info\\_services/reagents.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/lab_info_services/reagents.shtml).
- 3. Storage conditions:** The samples will be sent on ice pack; however, they can be left at room temperature upon receipt. It is recommended that samples be set up as soon as they are received.
- 4. Sample preparation/selection criteria:** Samples are chosen based on serotypes that are received at the NVSL for testing. Serotype determination prior to including in panel will be confirmed by classical and molecular typing.
- 5. Panel quality control:** After isolates have been chosen for inclusion in panel, they will be inoculated into TSA. Ten percent of the complete panels will be randomly selected and processed blindly by NVSL staff to ensure that the isolates can be recovered and correctly identified.
- 6. Timing of the proficiency test distribution and data collection:** The *Salmonella* serotyping proficiency test is offered once a year. Results are to be submitted to NVSL within 30 days of receipt.
- 7. Test method:** Individual laboratories should treat the isolates in the same fashion that they would treat a normal diagnostic sample. Testing methods are based on individual lab protocols.
- 8. Submitting test results:** Participating laboratories are required to have data submitted for scoring no more than thirty days after receipt. Results are reported to the NVSL by fax, mail, or email.
- 9. Scoring of individual panel samples:** For each sample, scoring is based on correct serogrouping of O antigen, and if laboratory does complete serotyping, correct identification of “H” antigens.

**10. Laboratory pass/fail criteria:** At this point, this test is being offered to evaluate laboratories doing testing, and a grade will not be assigned.

**11. Reporting laboratory test scores:** Results for each laboratory are reported to the individual laboratory director. Final results are compiled and reported within 60 days of the deadline for receipt of participants' results. Results of individual laboratories are reported only to that laboratory, and summary results from all laboratories are provided as part of the final report.

**12. Remedial actions required for failing laboratories:** N/A

**13. Special requirements:** A valid USDA transport permit is required to receive the proficiency test. A copy of the permit must be provided to NVSL prior to shipment.