

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
September 2009 Report
USA Comments

Chapter 6.5
Prevention, Detection, and Control of *Salmonella* in Poultry

USA proposed text (suggested **changes shown in blue bold font and double underlined**):
Note: The United States recognizes that some of our suggestions are made on text that is not currently offered for comment, however, we are submitting these suggestions for the Code Commission to consider as we believe the suggested changes either helps strengthen the chapter or allow its recommendations to be more feasible to implement.

Article 6.5.5

5. Vaccines are used against *Salmonella* infections caused by different serotypes in various *poultry* species, including single or combined vaccines. Vaccines produced according to the *Terrestrial Manual* should be used.

If live vaccines are used it is important that field and vaccine strains be easily differentiated in the laboratory. If serology is used as the *surveillance* method, it may not be possible to distinguish between vaccination and *infection* with a field strain.

Vaccination can be used as part of an overall *Salmonella* control programme. It is recommended that vaccination not be used as the sole control measure. When the status of the breeding farm and the hatchery from which the *flock* originates is not known or does not comply with this Chapter, vaccination of *flocks*, starting with ~~day-old chicks~~ day-old birds, against the *Salmonella* serotypes known to be significant should be considered.

Vaccination against the *Salmonella* serotypes known through routine monitoring to be significant in a production environment should be considered when moving ~~day-old chicks~~ day-old birds to a previously contaminated shed so as to minimise the risk of the birds contracting *Salmonella* infection.

When used, vaccines should be administered according to the instructions provided by the manufacturer and in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the *Veterinary Services*.

Vaccination against *S. Enteritidis* can cause ~~a~~ false positive reactions in *Salmonella* Pullorum / *S. Gallinarum* serological tests and needs to be considered when implementing measures for these pathogens.

Rationale: 1) suggested changes provide for better clarity, and 2) "Pullorum" appears to have been inadvertently omitted.

8. As far as the veterinary involvement is concerned, the responsible veterinarian should monitor the results of *surveillance* testing for *Salmonella* and its compliance with the guided policy. This information should be available to the veterinarian before marketing if a veterinary certificate for *flock Salmonella* status is required. When required by the *Competent Authority*, the veterinarian or other ~~authorised~~ person responsible for notification should notify the *Competent Authority* if the presence of *Salmonella* of the relevant serotype is confirmed.

Rationale: suggested text provides for clarity and strengthens the recommendation.

Article 6.5.6.

Prevention of *Salmonella* spread from infected flocks

If a *flock* is found infected with specific *Salmonella* serotypes of concern, the following actions should be taken in addition to general measures detailed in Chapter 6.4. Hygiene and Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production:

1. According to the epidemiological situation, investigations should be carried out to determine the origin of the *infection*.

2. Movement of *poultry flocks* at the end of the production cycle should only be allowed for *slaughter* or destruction. ~~Special precautions should be taken in the transport, *slaughter* and processing of the birds, e.g. they could be sent to a separate slaughterhouse or processed at the end of a shift before cleaning and disinfection of the equipment.~~

Rationale: For most countries in the world, the “special precautions” in the recommendation under Point 2 of this Article are currently neither feasible nor very practical. Thus we are suggesting deleting this text at this time.