Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 of 8 March 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in flocks of broilers, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Text with EEA relevance)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 200/2012

of 8 March 2012

concerning a Union target for the reduction of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in flocks of broilers, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of *salmonella* and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents[(1)] and, in particular the second subparagraph of Article 4(1), the second subparagraph of Article 8(1) and the second paragraph of Article 13 thereof;

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 aims to ensure that appropriate and effective measures are taken to detect and control, amongst others, *salmonella* at all relevant stages and in particular at the level of primary production, i.e. in flocks, in order to reduce the prevalence of food-borne zoonotic pathogens and thus the risk they pose to public health.

(2) Article 4 (5) of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 provides for Union targets to be established for the reduction of the prevalence of all *Salmonella* serotypes with public health significance in broilers. That reduction is key to ensuring that the criteria for *salmonella* in fresh meat of broilers set out in Part E of Annex II to that Regulation and in Chapter 1 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 of 15 November 2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs[(2)] can be met.

(3) Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 provides that the Union target is to include a numerical expression of the maximum percentage of epidemiological units remaining positive and/or the minimum percentage of reduction in the number of epidemiological units remaining positive, the maximum time limit within which the target must be achieved and the definition of the testing schemes necessary to verify achievement of the target. It is also to include a definition, where relevant, of serotypes with public health significance.

(4) Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 provides that experience gained under existing national measures and information forwarded to the Commission or to the European Food Safety

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Authority ('EFSA') under existing Union requirements, in particular in the framework of information provided for in Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC[3], and in particular Article 5 thereof, is to be taken into account when setting the Union target.

(5) Article 1 paragraph 1 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 646/2007 of 12 June 2007 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a Community target for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in broilers and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1091/2005[4] sets the target for the reduction of the maximum percentage of flocks of broilers remaining positive for those two *Salmonella* serotypes to 1 % or less by 31 December 2011.

(6) The European Union Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2009[5] showed that *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* are the serovars most frequently associated with human illness. Human cases caused by *Salmonella enteritidis* decreased markedly in 2009, while an increase in *Salmonella typhimurium* cases was observed.

(7) In July 2011, the EFSA adopted a Scientific Opinion on a quantitative estimation of the public health impact of setting a new target for the reduction of *Salmonella* in broilers[6]. It concluded that *Salmonella enteritidis* is the most successfully transmitted zoonotic *Salmonella* serotype from parent to offspring in poultry. EFSA also observed that Union control measures in broilers have contributed to a considerable reduction in the number of broiler-associated human salmonellosis cases compared to the situation in 2006. The target should therefore be confirmed.

(8) Monophasic strains of *Salmonella typhimurium* have developed to be among the most frequently detected *Salmonella* serotypes in several species of animals and in clinical isolates from humans in recent years. EFSA's 2010 Scientific Opinion on monitoring and assessment of the public health risk of "*Salmonella typhimurium*-like strains" adopted on 22 September 2010[7] also stated that monophasic *Salmonella typhimurium* strains with the antigenic formula **[**[X1]1,4,[5],12:i:-, which includes strains with and without the O5 antigen, have to be considered to be variants of *Salmonella typhimurium* and to pose a public health risk comparable to that of other *Salmonella typhimurium* strains. *Salmonella typhimurium* strains with the antigenic formula 1,4,[5],12:i:-**]** should therefore be included in the target.

(9) To verify whether the Union target has been met, it is necessary to sample flocks of broilers repeatedly. To evaluate and compare the results, it is necessary to describe a common testing scheme to verify whether the Union target has been met.

(10) National control programmes for the achievement of the Union target for 2012 for flocks of broilers of *Gallus gallus* have been submitted for Union co-financing in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC of 25 May 2009 on expenditure in the veterinary field[8]. The technical amendments introduced in the Annex to this Regulation are directly applicable. As a result the Commission does not need to re-approve national

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control programmes implementing this Regulation. A transitional period is therefore not needed.

(11) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health and neither the European Parliament nor the Council has opposed them,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Editorial Information

X1 Substituted by Corrigendum to Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 of 8 March 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in flocks of broilers, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Official Journal of the European Union L 71 of 9 March 2012).

Article 1

Union target

1 The Union target, as referred to in Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, for the reduction of the prevalence of *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium* in broilers ('Union target') shall be a reduction of the maximum annual percentage of flocks of broilers remaining positive for *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Salmonella typhimurium equal* to 1% or less.

As regards monophasic *Salmonella typhimurium*, serotypes with the antigenic formula **[**[X1]1,4,[5],12:i:-**]** shall be included in the Union target.

2 The testing scheme necessary to verify progress in the achievement of the Union target is set out in the Annex ('testing scheme').

Editorial Information

X1 Substituted by Corrigendum to Commission Regulation (EU) No 200/2012 of 8 March 2012 concerning a Union target for the reduction of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in flocks of broilers, as provided for in Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (Official Journal of the European Union L 71 of 9 March 2012).

Article 2

Review of the Union target

The Union target shall be reviewed by the Commission taking into account the information collected in accordance with the testing scheme and the criteria laid down in Article 4(6)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

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Article 3

Repeal of Regulation (EC) No 646/2007

Regulation (EC) No 646/2007 is repealed.

References to the repealed Regulation shall be construed as references to this Regulation.

Article 4

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

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ANNEX

Testing scheme necessary to verify the achievement of the Union target as referred to in Article 1(2)

1. SAMPLING FRAME

The sampling frame shall comprise all flocks of broilers of *Gallus gallus* ('broilers') within the framework of the national control programmes provided for in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003.

2. MONITORING IN BROILERS

2.1. **Frequency of sampling**

(a) Food business operators shall sample all flocks of broilers within three weeks before slaughter.

By way of derogation from the sampling obligation set out in the first subparagraph, the competent authority may provide that food business operators shall sample at least one flock of broilers per round on holdings with more than one flock where:

(i) an all in / all out system is used in all flocks of the holding;

(ii) the same management applies to all flocks;

(iii) feed and water supply is common to all flocks;

(iv) during at least the last six rounds, tests for *Salmonella* spp. according to the sampling scheme set out in the first subparagraph in all flocks on the holding and samples of all flocks of at least one round were carried out by the competent authority;

(v) all results from the testing according to the first subparagraph and point (b) for *Salmonella enteritidis* or *Salmonella typhimurium* were negative.

By way of derogation from the sampling obligations set out in this point the competent authority may authorise sampling in the last six weeks prior to the date of slaughter in case the broilers are either kept more than 81 days or fall under organic broiler production according to Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008[9].

(b) The competent authority shall each year sample at least one flock of broilers on 10 % of the holdings with more than 5 000 birds. That sampling may be done on a risk basis and each time the competent authority considers it necessary.

A sampling carried out by the competent authority may replace the sampling by the food business operator as required by point (a).

2.2. **Sampling protocol**

2.2.1. *General instructions for sampling*

The competent authority or the food business operator shall ensure that samples are taken by persons trained for that purpose.

At least two pairs of boot swabs shall be taken for sampling. Boot swabs are put on the boots and the sample is taken by walking around in the poultry house. Swabs from one flock of broilers may be pooled into one sample.