1989 No. 120

ANIMALS

Diseases of Animals (Testing of Poultry Flocks) Order (Northern Ireland) 1989

Made	*24th March 1989*
Coming into operation . .	*24th March 1989*

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 44 and 60(1) of the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**a**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as the Diseases of Animals (Testing of Poultry Flocks) Order (Northern Ireland) 1989.

Interpretation

2. In this Order—

"chick box liner" means any material used to line a box or other container in which chicks are transported from a hatchery to any rearing premises;

"laboratory" means any laboratory in Northern Ireland which has the necessary facilities and personnel for carrying out, and is willing to carry out, tests on samples specified in Part I of the Schedule in accordance with the provisions of Part II of the Schedule;

"poultry" means domestic fowls of any age;

"Poultry flock" means any flock of poultry consisting of—

(*a*) not less than 25 birds which are kept primarily for the production of eggs for human consumption; or

(*b*) less than 25 birds, the eggs of which are sold for human consumption; and

"rearing premises" means any premises on which 25 or more birds are being reared at any time primarily for the production of eggs for human consumption.

Taking of samples from poultry flocks for testing

3. The owner or person in charge of a poultry flock shall—

(*a*) in respect of that flock take or cause to be taken the samples specified in Part I of the Schedule in such manner and at such times as are so specified:

(**a**) S.I. 1981/1115 (N.I. 22) to which there are amendments not relevant to the subject matter of this Order

(*b*) identify or cause to be identified each such sample so as to enable the age of the bird to which it relates to be easily determined; and

(*c*) within 24 hours of such samples being taken, submit them or cause them to be submitted, to a laboratory for testing for the presence of salmonella in accordance with the bacteriological method set out in Part II of the Schedule.

Testing of samples from poultry flocks and reporting of results of tests

4.—(1) The person in charge of a laboratory to which a sample has been submitted under Article 3(*c*) shall—

(*a*) test the sample or cause it to be tested for the presence of salmonella in accordance with the bacteriological method set out in Part II of the Schedule; and

(*b*) report in writing the result of such a test, as soon as is practicable, to the person who submitted the sample.

(2) Where the person to whom a report is made under paragraph (1)(*b*) is not the owner or person in charge of the flock to which the report relates, he shall immediately give that report to the owner or person in charge of that flock.

Keeping of records

5. The owner or person in charge of a poultry flock shall—

(*a*) keep a record of any report relating to the flock and received by him by virtue of Article 4 for a period of not less than three years from the date of the tests the results of which the report contains; and

(*b*) shall permit an inspector to inspect and take extracts from such records.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 24th March 1989.

(L.S.) *S. R. Armstrong*
Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE Article 3(*a*)

PART I

SAMPLES TO BE TAKEN

1. In respect of each poultry flock the samples to be taken shall be as follows:—

(*a*) all chick box liners (up to a maximum of 10) from each consignment of chicks delivered on any one day to any rearing premises used for the rearing of the flock, such samples to be taken on the day of the arrival of the chicks there;

(*b*) the carcases of all chicks (up to a maximum of 60) which are dead on arrival at any rearing premises used for the rearing of the flock or which die within 4 days of their arrival there;

(*c*) the carcases of all birds belonging to the flock (up to a maximum of 60) which die or are slaughtered when between 3 and 5 weeks of age;

(*d*) the appropriate number of cloacal swabs taken from birds belonging to the flock (at the rate of one swab per bird) within 1 week of the birds attaining 4, 14, 22, 26 and 30 weeks of age and at 8 week intervals thereafter; and

(*e*) the carcases of all birds (up to a maximum of five) which have died or been slaughtered when between 26 and 30 weeks of age.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1(*d*) the appropriate number of cloacal swabs to be taken from birds belonging to the flock shall be determined in accordance with the following table:—

TABLE

Column 1 *Number of birds belonging to the flock kept in a house, or on premises on which they have free access to more than one house, the number of such birds on those premises*	Column 2 *Number of swabs to be taken from each house or from the premises described in Column 1 opposite*
1-24	A number equal to the total number of birds there
25-29	20
30-39	25
40-49	30
50-59	35
60-89	40
90-199	50
200-499	55
500 or more	60

Article 3(*c*) and 4

PART II

BACTERIOLOGICAL METHOD

Samples submitted for testing for the presence of salmonella shall be examined in the following prescribed manner on consecutive days and, where a laboratory at which samples have been received for testing on any day is unable to commence such an examination on that day, the samples shall be stored in a refrigerator until required for examination.

Day 1

(*a*) Chick box liners: a one gram portion shall be taken from each liner and portions from separate liners shall be bulked to 10 grams and placed into 100 ml Selenite F broth(*a*).

(*b*) Cloacal swabs: cloacal swabs shall be bulked in batches of up to 25 and placed in 100 ml of Selenite F broth.

(*c*) Carcases of birds: the following organs shall be removed from the carcases of birds—

(i) from chicks — samples of the yolk sac, liver and terminal intestines (to include portions of small intestines, large intestine and caecal tonsil).

(ii) from birds of between 3 and 5 weeks of age — samples of liver and terminal intestines (to include portions of small intestines, large intestine and caecal tonsil), and

(iii) from adult egg laying birds — samples of ovary, liver and intestines (to include portions of small intestines, large intestines and caecal tonsil).

Samples of similar organs taken from the carcases of birds submitted shall then be bulked up to a maximum of 10 grams and placed into 100 ml Selenite F broth.

The inoculated Selenite F broth shall then be incubated at 37°C for 18-24 hours.

Day 2

The Selenite F broth shall be plated out on to two plates of Brilliant Green Agar (''BGA'')(*b*) using a 2.5 mm diameter loop. The BGA plates shall be inoculated by a droplet taken from the edge of the surface of the fluid by drawing the loop over the whole of one plate in a zigzag pattern and continuing to the second plate without recharging the loop. The space between the loop streaks shall be 0.5 cm—1.0 cm. The plates shall be incubated at 37°C for 18-24 hours.

Day 3

The plates of BGA shall be examined and a minimum of 3 colonies from the plates showing suspicion of salmonella growth shall be subcultured on to a blood agar plate and a MacConkey agar plate and into biochemical composite media or equivalent. These media shall be incubated at 37°C overnight.

Day 4

The incubated plates and composite media or equivalent shall be examined and the findings recorded, discarding cultures which are obviously not salmonella. Slide serological tests shall be performed using salmonella polyvalent ''O'' and polyvalent ''H'' (phase 1 and 2) agglutinating sera on selected suspect colonies collected from the blood agar on MacConkey plates. If reactions occur with one or both sera, the colonies shall be typed by slide serology and a subculture sent to the Veterinary Research Laboratory, Stormont, Belfast.

Notes:

(*a*) Selenite F broth — Liefson (1936)
(commercially available as Oxoid CH 395 and L121, Lab M44a and 44b or equivalent).

The base shall be reconstituted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

(*b*) Brilliant Green Agar — Edel and Kampelmacher (1973)
(commercially available as Oxoid CM 329, Lab M34 or equivalent)

The agar shall be reconstituted according to the manufacturer's instructions and poured into 9 cm diameter plates.

References

Liefson, E. (1936) American Journal of Hygiene 24 423-432.
Edel & Kampelmacher Eh (1973) Bulletin of the World Health Organisation 48 167.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order.)

This Order requires the owner or person in charge of a poultry flock (as defined in Article 2) to ensure that samples are taken in respect of his flock, that they are identified and are submitted to a laboratory for testing for the presence of salmonella (Article 3 and Part I of the Schedule).

Article 4 requires the person in charge of that laboratory to ensure that samples submitted to him under this Order are tested in the manner required by Part II of the Schedule and to report the results of those tests to the person who submitted the sample. Where that person is not the owner or person in charge of the poultry flock to which the report relates he is required to give that report to the owner or person in charge of the flock. Under Article 5 the owner or person in charge of the flock is under a duty to keep a record of such reports for a period of not less than three years and to permit an inspector to inspect and take extracts from such records.

Any person who without lawful authority or excuse, proof of which shall lie on him, contravenes any provisions of the Order shall be guilty of an offence against the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. The penalty, on summary conviction, is a fine at level 5 on the standard scale (currently £2,000), or in the case of an offence committed with respect to more than 5 animals a fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £400) for each animal; or in the case of an offence committed in relation to carcases or other inanimate things a fine at level 5 on the standard scale (currently £2,000) together with a further fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £400) in respect of every 508 kilogrammes in weight of the carcases or other things after the first 508 kilogrammes.