

Comments to draft report of a mission carried out in the Czech Republic from 26 May to 04 June 2008 in order to evaluate the systems in place to control the salmonella risk in the table egg sector

5.4.1.1 National control plans for breeders

Although in the NSCP all the different sampling methods foreseen under the Community regulation are allowed, only the most laborious one is used (collection of 300 single fresh droppings per flock).

We would like to point out that this sampling method is fully in line with Point 2.2.2.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005.

All sampling activity is carried out at holdings level, samples are never taken at hatchery level.

We would like to point out that according to Point 2.1.1 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1003/2005 the sampling shall take place at the place designated by the competent authority from the following two possible options: either at hatchery or at the holding. Sampling at the holding was implemented to the whole testing scheme within the NSCP.

5.4.1.2 National control programme for laying hens

The frequency of sampling is done based on the requirements set out in Annex II B of Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003, whereas the sampling methodology is only partially done according point 2.2 in the Annex to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1168/2006. In fact in the case of official sampling, only one faecal sample is taken, instead of three samples (either two faecal and one dust or three faecal).

Unfortunately this was misunderstanding over interpretation of the Regulation. This misunderstanding will be reviewed within revision of NSCP.

Neither in case of detection nor in case of confirmation of positivity for SE and ST in a flock, is official sampling carried out in the remaining flocks as foreseen in point 2.1 (d) of Annex to Regulation (EC) No 1168/2006.

In case of positivity for SE and ST in a flock, official sampling is carried out in the remaining flocks as a following sampling in sampling scheme.

5.7 OFFICIAL CONTROLS AT ESTABLISHMENT LEVEL

Egg packing centres and processing plants

Under a national inspection programme, VA officials must inspect a packing centre at least once per year and an egg processing plant once per month.

Correction of the text as follows:

VA officials must inspect a packing centre and an egg processing plant at least once per month.

5.7.1. Establishments visited during the mission

Packing centre

Concerning the premises visited, one was very clean throughout, but the establishment was not in operation at the time of the visit. In the second establishment, the use of dirty machinery and trolleys was noted, as well as shortcoming in the marking of eggs (Council Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006).

With regard to the eggs which were not marked in compliance with requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006 of 19 June 2006 stipulating the marketing standards for egg production, please accept the following explanation:

There were eggs which were graded as small weight eggs, i.e. eggs with a weight less than 53 g, it means that they were belonging to weight group "S". These eggs were not intended to be placed on market for commercial purposes, but they were intended for production of liquid egg in own egg processing plant. Therefore these eggs were not marked by means of any producer codes according to requirements stipulated in point III of Part A of Annex XIV to Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 of 22 October 2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and specific provisions for certain agricultural products ("Single CMO i.e. Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets Regulation").