

## 1 **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

- 🔧 Dry vacuum tube (box of 100 units).
- 🔧 Tube holder.
- 🔧 Single-use needle 1.2 x 25-40 mm (box of 100 units).

## 2 **STORAGE OF SAMPLING EQUIPMENT**

Keep in a dry and dust-free place.

## 3 **SAMPLING METHODS**

Blood samples are taken from the jugular vein:

- 🔧 Immobilise the animal using a rope, with the neck extended. The operator should position themselves at the level of the animal's head on the right-hand side. The needle on the tube holder should be inserted vertically into the right jugular fold to reach the vein. Once the blood starts to flow, insert the dry vacuum tube.

To obtain high-quality serum:

- 🔧 Place the tube horizontally 5 minutes after blood collection until the clot forms.
- 🔧 Maintain the blood at a temperature below 20°C. Ideally, samples should be stored at 5°C ± 3°C.
- 🔧 Ensure a sufficient volume of blood is collected, ideally filling the tube to one-third of its capacity.

## 4 **PACKAGING AND TRANSPORTATION OF SAMPLES TO THE LABORATORY**

- 🔧 Place the tubes in labelled plastic bags, grouped by flock. Clearly indicate the flock, sampling date, and the sampler's name.
- 🔧 Properly package the tubes to prevent any damage during transport.
- 🔧 Separate the submission forms from the samples by placing them in separate envelopes.
- 🔧 Submit to the laboratory or dispatch as soon as possible.
- 🔧 If samples are dispatched, maintain a temperature close to 5°C ± 3°C using a sealed isothermal container, with a cool pack, ensuring no direct contact with the tubes.
- 🔧 Store in a refrigerator if dispatch is scheduled for the following day.

## 5 **SAMPLE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

- 🔧 Reception time: Quick delivery is recommended to avoid haemolysis.
- 🔧 Minimum quantity: Depends on the number of analyses requested (ideally 1/3 of the tube).
- 🔧 Storage and transport temperature: <20°C and as close as possible to 5°C, without freezing.
- 🔧 Sample integrity: Samples showing visible alterations (e.g. broken tubes) or those containing severely haemolysed blood, with or without a foul odour, will be rejected.

## **KEY POINTS**

1. Collect a sufficient amount of blood.
2. Place the tube horizontally after collection.
3. Prevent haemolysis by protecting the blood from high temperatures and do not freeze.
4. Properly label the sample and clearly indicate the collection date.