

SAMPLING METHODS
SM15 - Version 01

1 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- ✎ Sample container with assembled tube and lid.

2 STORAGE OF SAMPLING EQUIPMENT

Keep in a dry and dust-free place.

3 SAMPLING METHODS

Sampling at the slaughterhouse:

- ✎ Using tongs and a knife, take 10 to 15 g of sternomastoid muscle (thick muscle located inside the neck, located ventro-laterally to the tracheal canal, see photo). The sample can also be taken from the diaphragm muscles (psoas minor muscle). These muscles tend to hold residual blood in their tissues. Other muscles are not suitable.
- ✎ Place the muscle fragment into the sample container and close the lid.
- ✎ Clearly label the container.
- ✎ Place the container vertically on a suitable rack.
- ✎ Freeze the container.



Sternomastoid muscle

4 PACKAGING AND TRANSPORTATION OF SAMPLES TO THE LABORATORY

- ✎ Carefully package the container to prevent any damage during transport.
- ✎ Place submission forms in a separate envelope from the samples.
- ✎ If samples are dispatched, maintain a temperature close to $5^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ using a sealed isothermal container (e.g. envelope or cooler) with a cool pack.
- ✎ Remove the samples from the freezer just before dispatch.
- ✎ Deliver samples to the laboratory or dispatch them as soon as possible maintaining the sample container in a vertical position.

KEY POINTS

1. Take enough muscle tissue without over-sampling, ensuring that the lid can be closed properly. A compacted sample will prevent proper drainage of the meat juice during thawing.
2. Sample from the sternomastoid muscle or the psoas minor muscle (diaphragm muscle).
3. Clearly label the samples.
4. Keep the samples frozen until the moment of dispatch.
5. Keep the sample container vertical during transport.