

**SAMPLING METHODS**  
SM17 - Version 01

**1** **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

- Disinfected single-use gloves.
- 1 pair of shoe covers.
- 2 pairs of boot swabs.
- Outer packaging (zip bag).

**2** **STORAGE OF SAMPLING EQUIPMENT**

Keep sealed in a dry and dust-free place.

**3** **SAMPLING METHODS**

After passing through the airlock and putting on the appropriate protective clothing, enter the livestock building and:

- Put on a pair of gloves and shoe covers.
- Put on two pairs of boot swabs, one on top of the other (open the bag by tearing off the top strip and pulling the white tabs in the centre).
- Wear the boot swabs while walking the full length of the livestock building, with particular attention to areas with high concentrations of caecal droppings, such as along the edges of feed chains and drinkers, for at least 3 minutes.
- Remove and fold the first pair of boot swabs inside the building.
- Place this pair into the bag.
- Repeat the process with the second pair of boot swabs, walking through the building for at least 3 minutes.
- Remove and fold the second pair of boot swabs and place them in the same bag.
- Expel the air by pressing the bag, then securely close the bag by pulling both ends.
- Fold the top of the bag over the white section 3 to 4 times, then fold the tabs over the bag.
- Label the sampling bag using a permanent marker.
- It is recommended to place the sample in an additional bag (e.g. a zip bag) to avoid cross-contamination between farms.

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

- Store in a cool environment if outside temperature is high.
- Deliver samples to the laboratory within 48 hours or dispatch them the same day in securely sealed outer packaging (e.g. envelope or cooler).

**5** **SAMPLE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA**

- Reception time: Maximum 48 hours. Samples must arrive before 2pm to ensure same-day analysis. Non-regulatory analyses: Samples received 96 hours after sampling may still be analysed, but results will be issued with reservations. Samples received more than 39 days after collection will not be analysed.
- Minimum regulatory sample quantity: Two pairs of boot swabs grouped into a single sample.
- Transport temperature: Samples should be transported quickly at room temperature or in a cooler.
- Sample integrity: Samples must be properly labelled and securely packaged.

Sampling for the detection of *Salmonella*  
from two grouped pairs of boot swabs (with  
protective gear)

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**KEY POINTS**

1. Walk the full length of the livestock building for at least 6 minutes.
2. Protect the sampling bag with outer packaging for transport to the laboratory.
3. Deliver to the laboratory as soon as possible.