

SAMPLING METHODS
SM1 - Version 01

1 REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

- ✎ 5 ml dry tube (haemolysis tube), uncapped (pack of 100 or 500 units).
- ✎ Tube cap (pack of 100 or 500 units).
- ✎ Scalpel blade (box of 100 units) or scissors.
- ✎ 5 ml syringe (box of 100 units).
- ✎ Single-use needle 1.1 x 25 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 'wing' vein (cutaneous ulnar vein), found on the underside of the wing.

There are two techniques:

- ✎ Using a scalpel blade, a technique suitable for all ages.
- ✎ Using a syringe to collect a larger quantity of blood, especially in turkeys or adult hens.

Fill the tube slowly to avoid haemolysis.

For day-old animals, blood is sampled after neck cutting.

- ✎ Apply pressure to the neck with one hand. Cut the neck at the base of the head and release to allow the blood to flow into the 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 before submission or dispatch to the laboratory.
- ✎ 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: Varies according to the required analyses (e.g. RSAT: <72h).
- ✎ 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.