

SAMPLING METHODS SM23 - Version 01

1 **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

- ✎ Outer packaging.
- ✎ Blue gauze swab (without neutraliser): Used for sampling in areas where animals are present (e.g. inside buildings, hatcheries) or in the livestock farm's environment (e.g. outdoors, vehicles) where no disinfectant is present.
- ✎ White gauze swab (with neutraliser): Used for sampling in areas where disinfectant is present (e.g. disinfection control).

2 **STORAGE OF SAMPLING EQUIPMENT**

Can be stored at room temperature for several months (check expiry date).

Must be kept in a dedicated bag or box to prevent contamination (clean and used gauzes must be stored separately).

3 **SAMPLING METHODS**

Within the sampling area:

- ✎ Open the bag using the zip (do not puncture it), place it on a clean surface, take out the gauze, and unfold it.
- ✎ Wipe as large a surface as possible, focusing on soiled areas (e.g. walls or feeders).

After sampling:

- ✎ Fold the gauze and place it back into the bag.
- ✎ Carefully seal the bag, without removing the metal frame.
- ✎ Label the sample using a permanent marker.

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

- ✎ Place the gauze (or multiple gauzes from the same building) in outer packaging.
- ✎ Deliver samples to the laboratory or dispatch them the same day in securely sealed outer packaging (e.g. envelope or cooler).

KEY POINTS

1. Avoid external contamination of the sampling equipment.
2. Ensure the bag is securely sealed.
3. Protect the sampling bag(s) during transport to the laboratory by using outer packaging to group samples from the same origin.
4. Ensure the exterior of the bag remains clean.
5. Do not compromise the integrity of the bag (no staples, tape or punctures).
6. Do not place the submission form inside the bag.