

### 1 **REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

- Disinfected single-use gloves.
- 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:

- Wash and disinfect your hands, then put on a pair of gloves.
- 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.

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.
- Store in a cool environment if analysis is delayed and the ambient 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:  
Regulatory analyses: Maximum 48 hours for samples from breeding farms and laying hens producing eggs for consumption (French ministerial decree of 27/02/2023). Maximum 96 hours for samples from broiler chickens and fattening turkeys (French ministerial decree of 24/04/2013). 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: As per the relevant regulations (sampling plan available upon request from the laboratory).

## Sampling for the detection of *Salmonella* from a gauze swab

### SAMPLING METHODS SM3 - Version 01

- ✎ Transport temperature: Samples should be transported quickly at room temperature or in a cooler.
- ✎ Sample integrity: Samples must be properly packaged. Damaged or compromised samples will not be analysed.

#### 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.