

**SAMPLING METHODS**  
SM7- Version 01

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**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**

- 🧤 Disinfected single-use gloves.
- 🧤 A pair of boot swabs.
- 🧤 A sampling bag.

2

**STORAGE OF SAMPLING EQUIPMENT**

Keep sealed in a dry and dust-free place.

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**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.
- 🧤 Put on a pair of boot swabs.
- 🧤 Walk through the livestock building, covering approximately 50% of its surface. The boot swabs must be worn while walking the full length of the 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.
- 🧤 For *Salmonella* detection in broiler poultry, each of the two pairs of boot swabs must cover 50% of the building's surface. Alternatively, a single pair covering 100% of the surface may be used, along with a gauze swab. These should be combined into a single sample.
- 🧤 Remove and fold the boot swabs inside the livestock building.
- 🧤 Place the boot swabs into a sampling bag. Open the bag by tearing off the top strip and pulling the white tabs in the centre.
- 🧤 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.

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

- 🧤 Store in a cool environment if analysis is delayed and the 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).

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**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: One or two pairs of boot swabs, as per the relevant regulations.
- 🧤 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 a pair of boot swabs

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#### **KEY POINTS**

1. Boot swabs must be put on in the animal living area.
2. Walk the full length of the livestock building for at least 3 minutes (one round trip).
3. Protect the sampling bag with outer packaging for transport to the laboratory.