

## 1990 No. 49

## ANIMALS

**Poultry Laying Flocks (Registration and Testing etc.)  
Order (Northern Ireland) 1990**

*Made* . . . . . 14th February 1990

*Coming into operation—*

*Articles 9 to 11* . . . . . 2nd April 1990

*Remainder* . . . . . 16th February 1990

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 5(1), 44 and 60(1) of the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:

*Citation and commencement*

**1.**—(1) This Order may be cited as the Poultry Laying Flocks (Registration and Testing etc.) Order (Northern Ireland) 1990 and, except for Articles 9 to 11, shall come into operation on 16th February 1990.

(2) Articles 9 to 11 shall come into operation on 2nd April 1990.

*Interpretation*

**2.**—(1) In this Order—

“authorised laboratory” means a laboratory in Northern Ireland authorised in writing by the Department for the purposes of testing samples from poultry under this Order;

“chicks” means poultry less than 72 hours old which have not yet been fed;

“chick box liner” means any material used to line a box or other container in which chicks are transported from a hatchery to any rearing premises;

“eggs” means the eggs of poultry;

“flock” means any flock of poultry consisting of—

(a) not less than 25 birds which are kept primarily for the production of eggs for human consumption (including birds which are being reared for that purpose); or

(b) less than 25 birds, the eggs of which are sold for human consumption;

“laboratory” means any laboratory in Northern Ireland which has the necessary facilities and personnel for carrying out tests on samples

specified in Part I of Schedule 1 in accordance with the provisions of Part II of that Schedule;

“the Laying Flocks Register” means the Register kept by the Department under Article 9(2);

“poultry” means domestic fowls of any age and, except in Article 6(1)(b) and Schedule 2, “bird” shall be construed accordingly;

“rearing premises” means any premises on which poultry are being reared at any time primarily for the production of eggs for human consumption;

“registered” in relation to any person means the entry in respect of any premises of that person’s name in the Laying Flocks Register; and

“vermin” means rats, flies, mice or cockroaches.

(2) After 1st June 1990 any reference in this Order to a laboratory shall be a reference to an authorised laboratory.

#### *Taking of samples from flocks for testing*

3. The owner or person in charge of a flock shall ensure that—

(a) in respect of the flock the samples specified in Part I of Schedule 1 are taken in such manner and at such times as are so specified; and

(b) such samples are submitted forthwith to a laboratory for testing for the presence of salmonella in accordance with a bacteriological method set out in Part II of that Schedule.

#### *Testing of samples from flocks and reporting of results of tests*

4.—(1) The person in charge of a laboratory who has accepted for testing a sample submitted to it under Article 3(b) shall ensure that—

(a) the sample is tested for the presence of salmonella in accordance with a bacteriological method set out in Part II of Schedule 1;

(b) the result of such a test is reported in writing as soon as practicable to the person who submitted the sample; and

(c) where, as a result of an examination carried out in accordance with the said bacteriological method a culture of salmonella is isolated from the sample, that a subculture is sent to the Department’s Veterinary Research Laboratory, Stoney Road, Stormont, Belfast, or to its Food and Agricultural Microbiology Research Division, Newforge Lane, Belfast.

(2) Where a person to whom a report is made under paragraph (1)(b) is not the owner or person in charge of the flock to which the report relates, such person shall immediately pass that report to the owner or person in charge of that flock.

#### *Requirements relating to the collection and handling of eggs*

5. The owner or person in charge of a flock shall ensure that the requirements specified in Schedule 2 relating to the collection, handling, storage and packing of eggs from that flock are complied with.

*Control of vermin etc.*

6.—(1) The owner or person in charge of a flock shall ensure that, on the premises on which the flock is kept, effective measures are taken so as to ensure that—

- (a) poultry houses and buildings or parts of buildings used to store eggs are not infested by vermin; and
- (b) poultry houses in which poultry are housed permanently throughout their laying period are not accessible to any other birds at any time.

(2) In paragraph (1)(b) “bird” has the same meaning as in the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981.

*Tampering with samples*

7.—(1) A person shall not treat or otherwise tamper with any sample taken for the purpose of this Order.

(2) For the purpose of this Article a person shall be deemed to have treated a sample if he does anything in relation to it which is likely to affect the result of any test required to be carried out under this Order.

*Keeping of records*

8. The owner or person in charge of a flock shall—

- (a) keep records in respect of the flock containing the information specified in Schedule 3;
- (b) retain any such records for a period of one year from the date on which the sample or test to which it relates was taken or carried out or, as the case may be, from the date on which the movement of poultry to which it relates took place; and
- (c) produce any such records to an inspector on demand being made by him at any reasonable time during that period and allow him to take a copy of or an extract from them.

*Registration of flocks*

9.—(1) Subject to paragraph (7), a person shall not keep a laying flock on any premises unless his name is for the time being registered in respect of the premises on which the flock is kept.

(2) The Department shall, for the purposes of paragraph (1), keep a register of persons as being persons entitled to keep a laying flock on premises in respect of which their names are entered in the register.

(3) Where a person makes an application in writing to the Department for his name to be registered in respect of any premises on which a laying flock is to be kept by him, the Department shall, subject to paragraph (4), so register him and issue to him a certificate of such registration.

(4) The Department shall refuse to register any person in respect of any premises unless all the particulars specified in Schedule 4 are notified in writing to it.

(5) A person whose name is registered in respect of any premises shall, within 28 days of each anniversary of the date of such registration, notify the

Department in writing of any change in the particulars previously notified to it under this Article.

(6) Where a person, who is registered in respect of any premises, in accordance with paragraph (5) notifies the Department within 28 days after an anniversary of that registration that the number of laying birds kept by him on those premises has been reduced to less than 100 then, unless within those 28 days after the anniversary he informs the Department that he anticipates the number of laying birds kept by him on the premises in question will increase to 100 or more before the next following anniversary of his registration, the Department shall revoke his registration.

(7) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall not apply where the name of the person keeping the laying flock is entered in the Breeding Flocks Register in respect of the premises on which the laying flock is kept.

(8) In this Article—

- (a) “laying bird” means a bird kept primarily for the production of eggs for human consumption, other than a bird which is being raised for that purpose;
- (b) “laying flock” means a flock of poultry consisting of not less than 100 laying birds;
- (c) “Breeding Flock Register” has the meaning assigned to it by Article 3(2) of the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries (Registration and Testing etc.) Order (Northern Ireland) 1990(a).

#### *Notification by registered persons of results of tests on samples*

**10.**—(1) A registered person shall notify the Department in writing of the results of tests carried out on samples in accordance with Article 3(b) and which have been reported or passed to him in accordance with Article 4.

(2) Such notification shall contain the information specified in Schedule 5 and shall be given by the registered person to the Department at 12 week intervals commencing with the date on which the registered person first receives a report of any such test.

#### *Revocation and saving*

**11.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Diseases of Animals (Testing of Poultry Flocks) Order (Northern Ireland) 1989(b) is hereby revoked.

(2) The Diseases of Animals (Testing of Poultry Flocks) Order (Northern Ireland) 1989 shall continue to apply in relation to any sample taken thereunder before the coming into operation of this Order as if paragraph (1) had not been made.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 14th February 1990.

(L.S.)

*P. T. Toal*

Assistant Secretary

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(a) S.R. 1990 No. 50  
(b) S.R., 1989 No. 120

PART I

SAMPLES TO BE TAKEN

1. In respect of each flock the samples to be taken shall be as provided in paragraphs 2 and 3.

2. In the case of birds of up to 15 weeks of age, the samples to be taken shall comprise:—

- (a) all chick box liners, up to a maximum of 10, from the boxes or other containers in which chicks are delivered to any rearing premises on any day prior to 31st March 1990, such samples to be taken on the day of the arrival of the chicks there;
- (b) the carcasses of all chicks, up to a maximum of 60, which are found to be dead on arrival at any rearing premises prior to 31st March 1990;
- (c) the carcasses of all chicks, up to a maximum of 60, which die within 4 days of their arrival at any rearing premises prior to 31st March 1990;
- (d) the carcasses of all birds up to a maximum of 60, which die or are culled at 4 weeks of age, or within one week of attaining that age; and
- (e) either—
  - (i) composite samples of fresh faeces taken within one week of the birds attaining 4 and 14 weeks of age, each composite sample being made up of individual samples of fresh faeces, each weighing not less than 1 gram, taken from a number of sites selected at random from the house in which the birds are kept or, where birds have free access to more than one house on any premises, from each group of houses in which birds are kept on those premises; or
  - (ii) cloacal swabs taken, at the rate of one swab from each bird, within one week of the birds attaining 4 and 14 weeks of age.

3. In the case of birds which are more than 15 weeks of age, the samples to be taken shall comprise:—

- (a) composite samples of fresh faeces, each composite sample being made up of individual samples of fresh faeces, each weighing not less than 1 gram, taken from a number of sites selected at random from the house in which the birds are kept or, where birds have free access to more than one house on any premises, from each group of houses in which birds are kept on those premises; or
- (b) cloacal swabs taken at the rate of one swab from each bird (selected at random),

and in either case such samples are to be taken on one occasion when the birds are between 15 and 26 weeks of age and at 12 week intervals thereafter until the birds die or are culled.

4. For the purposes of paragraphs 2(e) and 3 the number of sites from which individual faeces samples are to be taken in order to make a composite sample and the number of cloacal swabs to be taken shall be calculated as follows:—

TABLE

Column 1	Column 2
<i>Number of birds kept in a house or, on premises on which birds have free access to more than one house, number of birds in each group of houses on such premises</i>	<i>Number of sites in that house or in each group of houses on those premises from which individual faeces samples are to be taken or number of cloacal swabs to be taken in that house or in that group of houses on those premises</i>
1— 29	A number equal to the total number of birds up to a maximum of 20
30— 39	25
40— 49	30
50— 59	35
60— 89	40
90—199	50
200—499	55
500 or more	60

## PART II

## Article 3(b) and 4

## THE FIRST BACTERIOLOGICAL METHOD

The following is the bacteriological method (Rappaports) for the detection of salmonella in chick box liners, cloacal swabs, composite faeces samples and carcasses.

Samples submitted for testing for the presence of salmonella shall be examined in the following prescribed manner on consecutive days and where a laboratory at which samples have been received for testing on any day is unable to commence such an examination on that day, the samples shall be stored in a refrigerator at between 1°C and 4°C until required for examination.

**Day 1**

- (a) Chick box liners: a one gram portion shall be taken from a soiled area on each liner and the portions from separate liners shall be bulked together and placed in Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) (a), at the rate of 1 gram of liner in 10 ml of BPW up to a maximum of 10 grams in 100 ml of BPW.
- (b) Faeces samples: the composite faeces sample shall be thoroughly mixed and a sub-sample weighing not more than 10 grams shall be placed in BPW at the rate of 1 gram faeces to 10 ml BPW up to a maximum of 10 grams in 100 ml BPW.
- (c) Cloacal swabs: cloacal swabs shall be bulked together in batches and placed in BPW at the rate of 1 swab to 4 ml BPW up to a maximum of 30 swabs in 120 ml BPW.
- (d) Carcasses of birds: the following organs shall be removed from the carcasses of birds—
  - (i) from chicks — samples of the yolk sac, liver and terminal intestines (to include portions of small intestines, large intestine and caecal tonsil),
  - (ii) from birds of 4 weeks of age — samples of liver and terminal intestines (to include portions of small intestines, large intestine and caecal tonsil).

The samples of organs taken from the carcasses of birds submitted shall then be bulked together and placed in BPW at the rate of 1 gram of bulked tissue in 10 ml BPW up to a maximum of 10 grams of tissue to 100 ml BPW.

The inoculated BPW shall then be incubated at 37°C for 18–24 hours.

#### Day 2

0.1 ml from the incubated BPW shall be inoculated into 10 ml of Rappaport Vassiliadis (RV) broth (*b*) and incubated at 42.5°C ± 0.5°C for 18–24 hours.

#### Day 3

The RV broth shall be plated out on to 2 plates of Brilliant Green Agar (BGA) (*d*) using a 2.5 mm diameter loop. The BGA plates shall be inoculated with a droplet taken from the edge of the surface of the fluid and drawing the loop over the whole of one plate in a zigzag pattern and continuing to the second plate without recharging the loop. The space between the loop streaks shall be 0.5 cm – 1.0 cm. The plates shall be incubated at 37°C for 18–24 hours, and the RV broth reincubated at 42.5°C ± 0.5°C for a further 18–24 hours.

#### Day 4

- (i) The plates of BGA shall be examined and a minimum of 3 colonies from the plates showing suspicion of salmonella growth shall be subcultured on to a blood agar plate and a MacConkey agar plate and into biochemical composite media or equivalent. These media shall be incubated at 37°C for 18–24 hours.
- (ii) The reincubated RV broth shall be plated out, and the plates incubated, as described in Day 3.

#### Day 5

- (i) The incubated plates and composite media or equivalent shall be examined and the findings recorded discarding cultures which are obviously not salmonella. Slide serological tests shall be performed using salmonella polyvalent “O” (Groups A-S) and polyvalent “H” (phase 1 and 2) agglutinating sera on selected suspect colonies collected from the blood agar or MacConkey plates. If reactions occur with one or both sera, the colonies shall be typed to Group level by slide serology.
- (ii) The plates of BGA prepared at Day 4(ii) shall be examined and further action taken as described in Day 4(i) and Day 5(i).

### The Second Bacteriological Method

The following is the bacteriological method (Selenite) for the detection of salmonella in chick box liners, cloacal swabs, composite faeces samples and carcasses.

Samples submitted for testing for the presence of salmonella shall be examined in the following prescribed manner on consecutive days and where a laboratory at which samples have been received for testing on any day is unable to commence such an examination on that day, the samples shall be stored in a refrigerator at between 1°C and 4°C until required for examination.

#### Day 1

- (a) Chick box liners: a one gram portion shall be taken from a soiled area on each liner and the portions from separate liners shall be bulked together and placed

in Selenite F broth (c) at the rate of 1 gram of liner to 10 ml broth up to a maximum of 10 grams of liner in 100 ml broth.

- (b) Faeces samples: the composite faeces sample shall be thoroughly mixed and a sub-sample weighing not more than 10 grams shall be placed in Selenite F broth at the rate of 1 gram of faeces to 10 ml up to a maximum of 10 grams of faeces in 100 ml broth.
- (c) Cloacal swabs: cloacal swabs shall be bulked together in batches and placed in Selenite F broth at the rate of 1 swab to 4 ml broth up to a maximum of 30 swabs in 120 ml broth.
- (d) Carcasses of birds: the following organs shall be removed from the carcasses of birds—
  - (i) from chicks — samples of the yolk sac, liver and terminal intestines (to include portions of small intestines, large intestine and caecal tonsil); and
  - (ii) from birds of 4 weeks of age — samples of liver and terminal intestines (to include portions of small intestines, large intestine and caecal tonsil).

The samples of organs taken from the carcasses of birds submitted shall then be bulked together and placed in Selenite F broth at the rate of 1 gram of bulked tissue in 10 ml of broth up to a maximum of 10 grams of tissue in 100 ml broth.

The inoculated Selenite F broth shall then be incubated at 37°C for 18–24 hours.

#### Day 2

- (i) The Selenite F broth shall be plated out on to 2 plates of Brilliant Green Agar (BGA) (d) using a 2.5 mm diameter loop. The BGA plates shall be inoculated with a droplet taken from the edge of the surface of the fluid and drawing the loop over the whole of one plate in a zigzag pattern and continuing to the second plate without recharging the loop. The space between the loop streaks shall be 0.5 cm – 1.0 cm. The plates shall be incubated at 37°C for 18–24 hours.
- (ii) The Selenite F broth shall then be reincubated at 37°C for a further 18–24 hours.

#### Day 3

- (i) The plates of BGA shall be examined and a minimum of 3 colonies from the plates showing suspicion of salmonella growth shall be subcultured on to a blood agar plate and a MacConkey agar plate and into biochemical composite media or equivalent. These media shall be incubated at 37°C for 18–24 hours.
- (ii) The reincubated Selenite F broth shall be plated out and incubated as described in Day 2(i).

#### Day 4

- (i) The incubated plates and composite media or equivalent shall be examined and the findings recorded, discarding cultures which are obviously not salmonella. Slide serological tests shall be performed using salmonella polyvalent “O” (Groups A–S) and polyvalent “H” (phase 1 and 2) agglutinating sera on selected suspect colonies collected from the blood agar or MacConkey plates. If reactions occur with one or both sera, the colonies shall be typed to Group level by slide serology.
- (ii) the plates of BGA prepared at Day 3(ii) shall be examined and further action taken as described in Day 3(i) and Day 4(i).



- (a) Buffered Peptone Water — Edel and Kampelmacher (1973) (Commercially available as Oxoid CM 509, Lab M46 or equivalent).
- (b) Rappaports Vassiliadis (RV) Broth — Vassiliadis et al (1976) (Commercially available as Oxoid CM 669 or equivalent).
- (c) Selenite F broth — Liefson (1936)  
(Commercially available as Oxoid CM 395 and L121, Lab M44a and 44b or equivalent).  
(a), (b) and (c) should be reconstituted according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- (d) Brilliant Green Agar (Modified) — Edel and Kampelmacher (1969)  
(Commercially available as Oxoid CM 329, Lab M34 or equivalent).

The agar should be reconstituted according to the manufacturer's instructions and poured into 9 cm diameter plates.

### References

- Liefson, E. (1936) *American Journal of Hygiene* 24, 423-432.  
Edel, W. & Kampelmacher, E. H. (1969) *Bulletin of the World Health Organisation* 41, 297-306.  
Edel, W. & Kampelmacher, E. H. (1973) *Bulletin of the World Health Organisation* 48, 167-174.  
Anon (1969) ISO 6579 International Organisation for Standardisation, Geneva.  
Vassiliadis, P., Pateraki, E., Papaiconomou, N., Papadakis, J. A., and Trichopoulos, D. (1976) *Annales de Microbiologie (Institut Pasteur)* 127B, 195-200.

**Requirements relating to the collection and handling of eggs from flocks**

1. All persons collecting or otherwise handling eggs must wash their hands immediately before and after doing so.

2. Eggs must be collected from the flock at least once a day.

3. Where eggs are collected by an automatic system, any broken, leaking or dented eggs must be removed from the system as soon as practicable.

4. Where eggs are collected by hand, any broken, leaking or dented eggs must be separated from other eggs and subsequently stored and disposed of separately from other eggs.

5. Eggs must not be placed in dirty or soiled trays.

6.—(1) All eggs must be stored in buildings or parts of buildings under such conditions as are necessary to prevent surface condensation and birds must not be permitted access to such buildings or parts of buildings.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1) “bird” has the same meaning as in the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981.

7. All—

(a) equipment used for the collection and handling of eggs, and

(b) storage and packing units,

must be kept in a clean condition.

**Records relating to laying flocks**

1. The owner or person in charge of a flock shall keep records containing the following information—

- (a) the dates on which samples were taken under and in accordance with Article 3(a), the type of such sample and the identity of the houses or groups of houses from which they were taken;
- (b) the result of tests carried out on the samples in accordance with Article 3(b) and which have been reported or passed to him in accordance with Article 4 and the names and addresses of the laboratories carrying out the tests;
- (c) the dates of the movement of any poultry onto the premises on which the flock is kept, the address from which they were brought there, the number of poultry moved and the identity of the houses or groups of houses on those premises in which the poultry were placed; and
- (d) the dates of the movement of any poultry off the premises on which the flock is kept, the number of poultry moved, and the address of the premises to which they were moved.

SCHEDULE 4

Article 9(4)

1. The particulars to be notified to the Department for the purposes of an application for registration under Article 9 are as follows:—

- (a) the name, address and telephone number of the applicant;
- (b) the address and telephone number of the premises on which the flock is to be kept;
- (c) the name of the person in charge of the premises on which the flock is to be kept (if not the applicant);
- (d) the approximate number of birds in the flock at the date of application;
- (e) in the case of birds which are to be housed continuously, the number of houses which will be maintained for such birds; and
- (f) in the case of birds which are to have free access to more than one house, the number of groups of houses which will be maintained for such birds.

**Information to be contained in the notification of the results of tests on samples given to the Department by a registered person**

1. The notification of the results of tests on samples given to the Department by a registered person under Article 10(1) shall contain the following information:—

- (a) the name and address of the registered person giving the notification;
- (b) a description of the type of sample tested;
- (c) the date on which such a sample was taken, the address of the premises from which it was taken and the identity of the house or group of houses on those premises from which it was taken;
- (d) the result of the test; and
- (e) the name and address of the laboratory which carried out the test.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Order.)*

This Order requires the owner or person in charge of a flock (as defined in Article 2(1)), to ensure that samples are taken in respect of it and are submitted to a laboratory for testing for the presence of salmonella (Article 3 and Part I of Schedule 1).

The Order also requires the person in charge of that laboratory to ensure that samples submitted to him under this Order are tested in the manner required by Part II of Schedule 1 and that the results of the test are reported to the person who submitted the sample. Where that person is not the owner or person in charge of the flock to which the report relates, he is required to pass the report to the owner or person in charge of the flock (Article 4).

In addition, the Order requires the owner or person in charge of a flock to—

- (1) comply with certain specified requirements relating to the collection and handling of eggs from the flocks (Article 5 and Schedule 2);
- (2) ensure that effective measures are taken to control vermin in poultry houses and that poultry in those houses are separated from other birds during their laying period (Article 6); and
- (3) keep records of samples taken from the flock, of the results of tests on such samples and of the movement of any poultry onto and off the premises on which the flock is kept (Article 8 and Schedule 3).

With effect from 2nd April 1990 the Order also prohibits a person from keeping a laying flock (as defined in Article 9) on any premises unless his name is entered in the Laying Flocks Register in respect of those premises. This register is kept by the Department of Agriculture ("The Department") which is required to enter on it the name of any person who applies to be so registered, provided that person notifies it of the particulars specified in Schedule 4. The registration of a person in the Laying Flocks Register in respect of any premises will remain in operation except where he notifies the Department within 28 days after an anniversary of that registration that the number of laying birds kept by him on those premises has been reduced to less than 100. In such a case, unless within those 28 days after the anniversary he informs the Department that he anticipates the number of laying birds kept by him on the premises in question will increase to 100 or more before the next following anniversary of his registration, the Department shall revoke this registration (Article 9).

A registered person is also required to notify the Department every 12 weeks of the results of tests on samples reported to him under the Order (Article 10 and Schedule 5).

Until 1st June 1990 samples taken under the Order are required to be tested at laboratories in Northern Ireland which have the necessary facilities and personnel for carrying out the tests in accordance with the Order and after that date the samples are required to be tested at laboratories authorised in writing by the Department for this purpose (Article 2(2)).

The Diseases of Animals (Testing of Poultry Flocks) Order (Northern Ireland) 1989 is also revoked.

Any person who without lawful authority or excuse, proof of which shall lie on him, contravenes any provisions of the Order shall be guilty of an offence against the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. The penalty, on summary conviction, is a fine at Level 5 on the standard scale (currently £2,000) or in the case of an offence committed with respect to more than 5 animals, a fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £400) for each animal; or in the case of an offence committed in relation to carcasses or other inanimate things a fine at level 5 on the standard scale (currently £2,000) together with a further fine at level 3 on the standard scale (currently £400) in respect of every 508 kilogrammes in weight of the carcasses or other things after the first 508 kilogrammes.