

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE CONTROL OF SALMONELLA IN BROILER FLOCKS SCHEME ORDER**  
**(NORTHERN IRELAND) 2009**

**S.R. 2009 No. 205**

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and is laid before The Northern Ireland Assembly.

**2. Description**

2.1 The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development intends to make the above named Statutory Rule under powers conferred by Articles 8(1) and 8(2) of the Disease of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981. The Regulations are required to be laid before the Assembly under the negative resolution procedure.

**3. Background**

3.1 EU Regulations (EC) No 2160/2003 and (EC) No 646/2007 require all Member States to implement National Control Programmes (NCPs) in the poultry and pig sectors. The objective of the NCPs is to improve public health through the detection and control of Salmonellas of human health significance in primary production.

NCPs have already been implemented for breeding and laying flocks by the Control of Salmonella in Poultry Regulations (NI) 2009 which came into operation on 28 July 2008. This proposed new order will now extend the regime to introduce an NCP for broiler flocks in 2009 as required by EU Directive.

The NCP for broilers, like that for breeders and layers sets out the monitoring and controls that producers must follow to reduce and/or control the prevalence of Salmonella Enteritidis and / or Typhimurium to 1% or less by 31 December 2009. On the basis of a national prevalence survey in 2007 the broiler industry appears to have already met the reduction target. DARD is seeking to encourage industry to enhance existing monitoring and controls to comply with the NCP rather than imposing a new regime on already successful practices.

**4. Consultation**

4.1 A consultation with interested parties was carried out between 5 November 2008 and 28 January 2009. One response to the consultation was received.

**5. Position in GB**

- 5.1** England, Scotland and Wales already have legislation in place to implement the control of salmonella in broiler flocks.

**6. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

- 6.1** The Regulations deal with animal disease control and do not have human rights implications, nor are they incompatible with EU law. The Regulations are therefore deemed to comply with the requirements of section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

**7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1** The poultry industry is accustomed to official sampling and testing for salmonella. This legislation does not impose any charging to recover costs in full where official control sampling/supervision is carried out by Veterinary Service and for the testing of all official control samples by AFBI. However such cost recovery is a long standing DFP requirement and it is proposed to introduce an amendment to existing fees legislation.

**8. Matters of special interest to the Agricultural and Rural Development Committee**

- 8.1** The printed Rule together with an Explanatory Memorandum will be submitted to the Committee at the same time as the Rule is sent to the Assembly Business Office.

**8.2 Contact**

- 8.3** Anne-Maire McConn at the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Telephone: 028 90525079 or e-mail: Anne-Maire.McConn@dardni.gov.uk