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Voluntary - Public

Date: 2/7/2019

GAIN Report Number: TS1909

Tunisia

Post: Tunis

Controls on Salmonella in Poultry

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

FAIRS Subject Report

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

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Report Highlights:

This report contains an unofficial translation of Tunisia's domestic regulation on salmonella controls in poultry production, which extends to imported day-old chicks and hatching eggs. Tunisian imports of day-old chicks and hatching eggs total \$6 million/year, including \$1 million currently sourced from the United States. This measure has not been notified to the WTO.

Joint Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fishing and the Minister of Public Health dated September 15, 2010, fixing the mechanisms of monitoring, methods of control, and management of the health risks linked to the infections with the Salmonella spp in the poultry.

The Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fishing and the Minister of Public Health,

Having regard to [Law n° 99-24](#) dated March 9, 1999, related to veterinary health control at the import and export,

Having regard to [Law n° 2005-95](#) dated October 18, 2005, related to the breeding and animal products,

Having regard to [Decree n° 2001-420](#) dated February 13, 2001, organizing the Ministry of Agriculture,

Having regard to [Decree n° 2002-668](#) dated March 26, 2002, organizing the intervention of the veterinarians and the agents in charge of veterinary health control at the import and export,

Having regard to [Decree n° 2009-2200](#) dated July 14 2009, fixing the nomenclature of the regulated animal diseases and enacting the general measures applicable to these diseases, as completed by [Decree n° 2010-1207](#) dated May 24, 2010.

ORDER:

Article 1 - The objective of the order herein is to set the mechanisms of monitoring, methods of control and management of the health risks linked to the infections due to salmonella in poultry at the level of primary production, including animal feed, so as to reduce their prevalence and the risk which they present for the public health.

To achieve these objectives, the competent authority as regards to animal health is in charge of initially establishing and applying a control program of salmonella first in breeders as from January 1, 2010, and covering a period of at least three consecutive years. This program may be extended to other stages of production as well as the stages of preparation and transformation and according to the methods and a calendar set by Joint Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fishing and the Minister of Public Health.

Art. 2 - Within the meaning of the order herein, it shall be meant by:

- a) **Breeders:** poultry of the species *Gallus gallus* maintained in captivity, at least seventy-two hours old, and intended for the production of hatching eggs for the broiler or layer industries.
- b) **Hatching eggs:** eggs produced by poultry defined in the point (a) of this Article and intended to be incubated.
- c) **Day-old chicks:** all poultry of the species *Gallus gallus* for the broiler or layer industries, of less than seventy-two hours of age and not yet fed.
- d) **Hatchery:** any facility which activity includes the incubation, hatching of eggs and the production of day-old chicks of the species *Gallus gallus* for broiler or layers industries.
- e) **Flock:** a group of poultry of the species *Gallus gallus*, of the same health status, held in the same building and constituting an epidemiologic unit. The flocks lodged in several buildings constitute the same epidemiologic unit if the conditions of installation and operation do not allow managing the risk of transmission of the infection by *Salmonella* between these flocks.

- f) **Operator of poultry facility:** any person or entity who has the guard, on a permanent or temporary basis, of poultry, except for the animals held for subsistence farming.
- g) **Prevalence:** the total number of cases or diseases outbreaks, in a determined population, during a given period and at a given moment.
- h) **Official control:** all the measures carried out by the competent authority as regards to animal health with an aim of checking the compliance with the measures established by the Order herein and any instruction emanating from the aforementioned competent authority to respect these obligations.
- i) **Self-control:** all the measures carried out by any operator of a poultry facility and any person in charge of a hatchery based on a sampling program, as defined in Annex II of the Order herein and approved by the competent authority as regards to animal health.
- j) **Primary production:** the raising and production of primary products, including the production of animals for raising before slaughter.

Art. 3 - In order to allow the implementation of the provisions provided for by the order herein, the operators of the poultry facilities and the persons in charge of the hatcheries have to report to the competent regional authority as regards to animal health as defined by the [Decree n° 2009-2200](#) referred to above. The aforementioned authority carries out the recording and attribution of a number of national approval for all the poultry facilities or hatcheries.

Moreover, the operators of the poultry facilities and the persons in charge of hatcheries shall send to the territorially competent head of district of animal production a declaration of exit of the animals or their transfer from the breeding facilities or a declaration of entry.

For the proper implementation of the provisions provided in the Order herein, it is advisable to ensure the traceability of the poultry and their eggs. Within this framework, the operators of the poultry facilities and the persons in charge of hatcheries shall hold up to date a register mentioning all relevant information and in particular:

- a) For the flocks:
 - Dates of entry and exit of the poultry,
 - Origin of the poultry,
 - The exact number of introduced poultry, mortalities and the weekly number present in the facility,
 - Technical results of the flock,
 - The destination of eggs and poultry.
- b) For the hatcheries:
 - Origin of eggs, in particular identification of the flock of origin (country of origin),
 - Dates of collection of eggs or dates of their laying, or arrival,
 - Technical results of the flock.

These documents shall be preserved for a minimal three-year period and be presented upon request of the representatives of competent authority as regards to animal health.

Art. 4 - National objectives are fixed in order to reduce the prevalence of salmonella enumerated in Annex I of the order herein and defined as being diseases considered contagious, on the level of the primary production, by taking into account in particular (*):

- results of the investigation of estimation of the prevalence of the zoonotic salmonella in the reproductive flocks for meat and egg laying,

The national objective fixed for the reproductive breeding animals of Gallus gallus covers in addition to the serotypes appearing in annex I the following serotypes: Salmonella corvallis, Amsterdam Salmonella, Salmonella anatum.

Art. 5 - The national control program of salmonella comprises the components of:

- **Self-control:** Realized by the operator of the poultry facility and the persons in charge for hatcheries while basing itself on a program of collections, as defined in Annex II of the order herein (*).

The results of laboratory analysis shall be preserved and presented at the request of the representatives of competent authority as regards animal health.

- **Official Control:** carried out by the representatives of competent regional authority as regards animal health while basing itself on a program of collections as defined in annex II of the order herein (*).

The nature of the collections, their numbers and the modes of sampling are defined by the competent authority as regards animal health.

Art. 6 - In the event of suspicion or confirmation of an infection in a breeder facility due to salmonella mentioned in Annex I of the Order herein, the measures defined in articles 5, 6 and 7 of [Decree n° 2009-2200](#) dated 14 July 2009 referred to above shall apply.

In the event of suspicion or confirmation of an infection in a breeder facility due to one of the serotypes of salmonella mentioned in paragraph 2 of article 4 of the order herein, the provisions defined in articles 5, 6 and 7 of [Decree n° 2009-2200](#) dated 14 July 2009 referred to above will be applied according to the epidemiologic situation.

Any anti-infectious treatment is strictly prohibited.

Art. 7 - The analyses provided for in the order herein also apply to the import and export of hatching eggs and day-old chicks.

Art. 8 - For flocks of breeders, at the time of the realization of the sampling defined in Annex II of the Order herein or at the latest at the time of the confirmation of infection, of the sampling are carried out, on the food used for the flock feeding on the farm level or in the production factory.

When a sample appears contaminated by salmonella mentioned in Annex I of the order herein, the competent regional authority as regards animal health:

- will seek, in order to identify, the source of the contamination in the exploitation or at all the production or the food transport stages,
- checks the implementation of the corrective measures provided for in the plan of health control of the establishment.

Art. 9 - The laboratory analyses shall be carried out in the official laboratories provided in article 10 of [Decree n° 2009-2200](#) dated 14 July 2009 referred to above. The

Art. 10 - The order herein shall be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Tunisia.

Tunis, 15 September 2010

The Minister of Public Health
Mondher Zenaïdi

The Minister of Agriculture,
Water Resources and Fishing
Abdessalem Mansour

In view of
The Prime Minister
Mohamed Ghannouchi

ANNEX 1

List of Salmonella Known to be Contagious in Breeders

- Salmonella enteritidis
- Salmonella typhimurium

ANNEX II

Samples to be Taken Under the Salmonella Control Program

Establishments of Raising	Reproducer Establishments						Hatcheries
	Raising Period			Laying Period			Every 16 weeks
Execution	Day- old Chick	At the age of 4 weeks	2 weeks before laying	4 weeks after laying in at the latest 26 weeks	Once every 15 days up to 60 weeks	4 weeks before slaughter	
	CO	AC	CO	CO	AC	CO	CO

*CO: Official Control

*AC: Self-Control