

ANNEX III

Sampling rules applicable to flocks when eggs are intended for Finland and Sweden

Section A

SAMPLING METHOD

Sampling must consist of faecal material collected according to one of the following methods:

1. in the case of hens raised on perches or free-range:
 - 1.1. composite samples of faeces, each sample consisting of separate samples of fresh faeces, each weighing at least 1 gram, are to be taken at random at a number of points in the building in which the hens are kept or, where such hens have free access to more than one building on a given farm, such samples must be taken in each group of farm buildings in which the hens are kept;
 - 1.2. boot swabs (i.e. overboots or tubegauze 'socks'): the surface of the boot swab must be moistened using appropriate recovery diluent (such as 0,8 % sodium chloride plus 0,1 % peptone in sterile dionised water), or sterile water, or any other diluent approved by the competent authority. Farm water containing antimicrobials or additional disinfectants must not be used. Walking around must be done in a manner which will sample representatively all parts of the building, including littered and slatted areas when slats are safe to walk on. On completion of sampling, boot swabs must be removed carefully so as not to dislodge adherent material. The two pairs of boot swabs may be pooled for analysis;
2. in the case of laying hens in cages, such samples are to be taken from scrapers or from surface droppings in the pit.

Section B

QUANTITY OF SAMPLES TO BE TAKEN

The quantity of samples must be as follows, depending of the sampling method used under section A:

- in case of the method referred to under 1.1.: 60 faeces samples must be taken in the building or group of farm buildings,
- in case of the method referred to under 1.2.: 2 pairs of boot swabs must be used,
- in case of the method referred to under 2.: 60 faeces samples must be taken, or at least 60 gram of naturally mixed faeces.

Section C

SAMPLING FREQUENCY

The flock must be sampled within a period of two weeks before the beginning of laying and thereafter at least once every 25 weeks.