

Biosecurity – *Salmonella* Enteritidis in the commercial layer and egg industry

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Management of the biosecurity risk

Salmonella Enteritidis in contaminated eggs is a public health hazard that causes gastroenteritis and may cause hospitalisation or death especially in infants, the elderly and individuals with impaired immune systems. In the chicken host, *Salmonella* Enteritidis is transmitted via a faecal-oral route and also trans-ovarially into the egg. Prevention of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infection of laying hens is an essential first step in reducing outbreaks in humans.

Salmonella Enteritidis was first detected in the commercial layer and egg industry in NSW in September 2018 following trace-back of locally acquired human health cases. NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) and Local Land Services (LLS) are working collaboratively with the NSW and national commercial poultry and egg industries and with agricultural and health agencies in NSW and other Australian jurisdictions to transition towards effective longer-term management of the risk of *Salmonella* Enteritidis.

The purpose of the NSW *Salmonella* Enteritidis Program (the Program) is to minimise the negative impact of *Salmonella* Enteritidis on:

- Human health – by minimising the number of people affected by contaminated eggs
- Commercial poultry and egg farms in NSW – by promoting improved biosecurity, detecting infected premises, and reducing the spread of infection to other poultry and egg enterprises
- Affected poultry and egg producers – by providing guidance on the management of the biosecurity risk of *Salmonella* Enteritidis on their enterprises

The outcomes for the Program are:

- Industry ownership of *Salmonella* Enteritidis management in NSW, and
- Nationally consistent response to *Salmonella* Enteritidis management

Scope

This procedure is a State Priority for NSW and applies to NSW DPI (an agency within NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment) and LLS.

Management of the risk of *Salmonella* Enteritidis in commercial layers and associated egg handling facilities is a priority activity under the NSW DPI policy – Endemic Pests and Diseases of Animals. This procedure has been jointly developed by NSW DPI and LLS.

The scope of this procedure is to outline the processes for management of infected premises, and surveillance and tracing in relation to *Salmonella* Enteritidis on commercial layer facilities, commercial rearing facilities for layers and egg handling facilities.

Audits and inspections required as part of the NSW Food Authority's licencing requirements are excluded from this procedure.

If *Salmonella* Enteritidis is detected in other poultry enterprises (for example, commercial broilers or 'backyard' poultry), NSW DPI and LLS will provide advisory support and/or undertake compliance actions if required to minimise the risk to human health and/or to other poultry or egg enterprises.

Biosecurity legislation summary

Salmonella Enteritidis is listed as notifiable in Schedule 1 of the Biosecurity Regulation 2017. The notifiable listing requires people to notify any suspect or known cases of *Salmonella* Enteritidis to Local Land Services (www.lls.nsw.gov.au) or to NSW DPI, within one working day of first suspecting or becoming aware of *Salmonella* Enteritidis in poultry.

Salmonella Enteritidis is subject to the [Biosecurity \(*Salmonella* Enteritidis\) Control Order 2019](#) pursuant to Section 62 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* ('the Act'). The Control Order applies to all persons in charge of commercial poultry facilities in New South Wales. The aim of the Control Order is to mandate minimum biosecurity practices on all commercial poultry facilities in NSW to reduce the ongoing spread of *Salmonella* Enteritidis.

Additionally, any person (e.g. animal owner or manager, agent, veterinarian etc.) who deals with potential *Salmonella* Enteritidis carriers such as poultry, or other associated carriers (e.g. vehicles, egg filler flats, equipment) and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks associated with *Salmonella* Enteritidis has a general biosecurity duty to take measures to prevent, eliminate or minimise the risk as far as is reasonably practicable.

For more information on the general biosecurity duty see [the General Biosecurity Duty](#) page on the NSW DPI web site and [Primefact 1635: The general biosecurity duty and poultry producers](#).

See the [Salmonella Enteritidis](#) page on the NSW DPI web site for more information on how to minimise risks associated with *Salmonella* Enteritidis in poultry.

The collection, use and disclosure of information in accordance with this procedure, including any internal or external discussion or distribution of information, must be in compliance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* or be exempted by the operation of section 387 of the Act.

Section 387 (2) of the Act provides authority for the disclosure of information about a person, without the consent of the person: to a public sector agency or to any other person, but only if the disclosure is reasonably necessary for the purpose of exercising a biosecurity risk function.

Work health and safety

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* places an obligation on the agency (NSW DPI and LLS) as a person conducting a business or undertaking and workers to provide a safe and healthy workplace. Safe Work Method Statements that support activities included in this procedure must be used in identifying, assessing and controlling risks.

NSW DPI and LLS will work together to create a safe and supportive work environment when undertaking any activities for this procedure.

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1. Roles and responsibilities

1.1 SE Steering Committee

- Makes policy decisions and sets the strategic direction of the SE Program (see Terms of Reference at INT19/128792)

1.2 SE Technical Working Group

- Provides technical advice as requested by the SE Steering Committee (see Terms of reference at INT19/113837)

1.3 SE Program Manager

- Coordinates and project manages the SE Program
- Creates and leads the SE program team
- Informs media and engagement unit of SE situation
- Tasks SE program team members
- Engages SE Technical Working Group as required
- Reports to the SE Steering Committee
- Requests SE resources (e.g. staff members to fill roles) from the CVO and or/SE Steering Committee
- Circulates SE Program Report SitRep fortnightly (see archives at V19/2979#15)

1.4 Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)

- Actions poultry disease notifications
- Liaises with industry, other jurisdictions, Animal Health Australia and the Australian CVO
- Approves status changes for premises
- Note: Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* all functions of the CVO can be undertaken by the DCVO

1.5 Group Director Food Safety & CEO Food Authority

- Liaises with industry, other jurisdictions, the Food Regulation Standing Committee, Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- Note: Under the *Food Act 2003* the CEO can delegate all functions except the power of delegation, emergency powers, and conditions limiting the functions of an enforcement agency

1.6 SE Investigations Manager

- Coordinates tracing and surveillance activities across Biosecurity and Food Safety (BFS)/LLS
 - Updates DPI records to include positive results from industry surveillance and ensure tracing is completed
 - Ensures surveillance is undertaken as detailed in Appendix 3 including referring surveillance to industry veterinarians and liaising with BFS Compliance / LLS / industry vets
 - Maintains surveillance register
 - Maintains premises information in the Emergency Management section within the Biosecurity Information System (EM Bis) including premise status
 - Provides premises owners/managers with laboratory reports of SE testing
 - Issues verbal Individual Biosecurity Direction (IBD) and electronic copies of written IBDs to new Infected Premises (IPs).
 - Tasks BFS geospatial staff to download the contact details of all holdings within 2km of a new IP
 - Tasks BFS geospatial staff to identify all commercial layer premises within 2km of IPs and create new cases as needed
 - Applies At Risk Premises (ARP) status to all commercial layer premises within 2km of IPs.
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- Coordinates communication with and provides extension/advisory material to all neighbouring premises within 2km of IPs
- Advises ARPs of the risk of SE and of their surveillance requirements
- Recommends premise status changes to the CVO using the Status Change Authorisation form at appendix 4
- Circulates Tableau report as required to all staff in the SE Program.
- Maintains Livestock Health Management System (LHMS) database in accordance with the LHMS manual
- Maintains “SE Surveillance Progress” spreadsheet at INT19/104730

1.7 SE Operations Manager

- Provides logistic assistance to IPs
- Coordinates contractors for destruction/disposal where assistance in coordinating is required. Identifies disposal options and locations e.g. landfill sites, rendering facilities, etc.
- Maintains “SE IP Destruction and Disposal Status” spreadsheet at INT19/104729
- Issues permits as appropriate for properties under movement restrictions
- Responsible for appointment of DPI/LLS Liaison Officers for New IPs
- Assists and facilitates DPI/LLS Liaison officers in their role with IPs
- Working with other organisations and government agencies to facilitate activities such as decontamination and burial
- Identifying resource deficiencies and taking appropriate measures to resolve them
- Supply appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and stores to staff that require items

1.8 DPI/LLS Liaison Officers (DPI/LLS LOs)

- The central point of contact with the infected premises owner/manager.
- Maintain contact with and provide support to the affected producer/manager
- Provide updates on progress of destruction, disposal and decontamination to the operations manager and raise any issues (se.operations@dpi.nsw.gov.au)
- Provide referral information for the [Rural Resilience Program](#), if required
- Identify animal and owner/manager welfare issues e.g. no feed, abandoned properties, insufficient funds and escalate to the operations manager
- Escalate any technical issues to the SE Program Manager
- Notify BFS compliance of when DCP or IP will be ready for compliance inspection
- Advise SE Investigations Manager of when DCP or IP likely be ready for SE resolution sampling
- Liaise with the Investigations Manager and Compliance in relation to IBDs, Permits, etc.
- Liaise with the Industry LO for the property
- Liaise with owners/managers of neighbouring properties which contain commercial poultry
- Connect owner/manager with other services such as Rural Assistance Authority and Rural Resilience Program.

1.9 Industry Technical Consultant for an IP

- NSW DPI has an agreement with Australian Eggs that allows the SE Program Manager to request the services of an Industry Technical Consultant for an IP.
- The Industry Technical Consultant nominated by Australian Eggs will be assigned to an IP to provide advice to the landholder/manager to improve biosecurity and assist in compliance with the IBD requirements for decontamination.

1.10 Industry Liaison Officers (Industry LOs)

- In addition to or instead of an Industry Technical Consultant, the Owner/Manager of an IP can elect to use the services of one or more independent industry professionals as an Industry LO (e.g. an independent poultry industry Veterinarian).
- Industry LOs may agree to collect surveillance samples (e.g. for diagnostic and/or monitoring purposes).
- If an agreement regarding sample collection is made, the SE Investigations Manager will liaise with the Industry LO regarding sampling.

1.11 BFS Geospatial officers

- Map poultry premises within 2km of IPs and create cases as tasked by the SE Investigations Manager

1.12 SE Program Veterinary Epidemiologist

- Analysis of epidemiological information
- Production of epidemiological reports

1.13 BFS Compliance

- Conduct foodborne illness premises investigations as per normal business
- Conduct surveillance visits as per Appendix 3
- Maintain records of visits
- Liaise with SE Investigations Manager
- Serves hard copy of IBD to the owner/manager of IPs (sometimes DCPs) [Note: IBDs can be issued by any authorised officers]
- Monitor compliance with Individual Biosecurity Directions (IBDs), maintain IBD register
- Advise SE Investigations Manager of when DCP/ IP has met audit requirements and is eligible for SE clearance sampling
- Manages egg recall process
- Coordinates egg trace backs from IPs and informs the SE Program Manager and SE Investigations Manager that this process is taking place so that a veterinarian can be assigned to accompany BFS Compliance Officers during initial diagnostic visits.
- Liaises with NSW Health in relation to trace-backs from human cases
- Ensure that samples collected for initial diagnostic investigation are sent to EMAI for testing and that all other samples (e.g. for ongoing monitoring) are sent to DTS laboratory. Samples for initial diagnostic testing are to be sent to EMAI because of the rapid turn-around time of results

1.14 Food Safety Unit

- Coordinates government laboratory sample submissions and results
- Prepares sampling kits and supplies these to LLS officers who have been tasked with undertaking surveillance activities
- Provides technical support and advice to the SE program

1.15 Animal Biosecurity Unit

- Provides technical and policy support to the SE program

1.16 Animal Biosecurity Poultry Coordinator

- Liaises with the Poultry Health Liaison Group
- Provides technical advice to the National *Salmonella* Enteritidis Monitoring and Accreditation Program
- Provides technical advice for development of external communications documents
- Attends local and interstate workshops and conferences to liaise with external stakeholders regarding NSW DPI response to SE.
- Liaises with and provides support or advice to internal stakeholders (SE IP Liaison Officers, SE Investigations Manager, BFS Compliance etc.)
- Liaises with and provides support or advice to external stakeholders (Industry Liaison Officers, producers, researchers etc.).

- Informs the relevant LLS Team Leader Animal Biosecurity and Welfare and the NSW Poultry Health Liaison Group when a new IP has been confirmed.

1.17 Local Land Services

- Undertake surveillance activities as per appendix 3
- Undertake field visits on IPs
- Maintain records of visits
- Liaise with SE Investigations Manager and DPI/LLS LO's

2. Case definition

The case definitions for *Salmonella* Enteritidis infection in a commercial layer flock and in an egg handling facility are at Appendix 1.

3. Premises classifications

Salmonella Enteritidis premises classifications are at appendix 2.

3.1 Creating a case

The SE Investigations Manager checks to determine if a property of interest is already an existing case. If not already an existing case, the SE Investigations Manager tasks the animal biosecurity support officer or the geospatial unit to create a new case and assign it the relevant status.

4. Surveillance

4.1 Surveillance triggers

4.1.1 Investigation of human disease referred by NSW Health

Biosecurity and Food Safety (BFS) Food Incident Response & Complaints Unit will conduct the initial assessment which may require a field investigation as per section 4.3.

4.1.2 Poultry disease notification

Animal biosecurity staff may be notified via the state veterinary diagnostic laboratory, the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline 1800 675 888 (24 hour hotline), Local Land Services, an authorised officer under the Act, or an industry or private veterinarian that *Salmonella* Enteritidis in poultry is suspected. BFS Animal Biosecurity in consultation with the SE Investigations Manager will coordinate an investigation as needed to include *Salmonella* Enteritidis sampling and testing.

4.1.3 Dangerous Contact Premises (DCP), Trace Premises (TP) and At Risk Premises (ARP) investigation/monitoring

Surveillance visits to be coordinated as outlined in Appendix 3 by SE Investigations Manager.

4.1.4 Resolved Premises (RP)

Surveillance visits to be coordinated as outlined in Appendix 3 by SE Investigations Manager.

4.1.5 Positive results from industry surveillance

Any positive results from industry testing is referred to the SE Investigations Manager who will assess the results and make a recommendation for status change as per section 4.6 of this procedure.

4.2 Surveillance activities

The surveillance protocol is at appendix 3.

The SE Investigations Manager advises the field investigators of the case number so this number can be recorded on the specimen advice form.

4.3 Field visit for premises linked to human health cases

Food Safety will assess the need for a field visit.

If a field visit is required Food Safety informs the SE Investigations Manager and requests that the SE Investigations Manager tasks a government veterinarian to jointly attend the field investigation with BFS Compliance.

The SE Investigations Manager emails the SE Steering Committee members the following details about the field investigation:

- The date of the field investigation
- The case number
- The attending officers
- The status assigned to the case (TP or DCP)
- A short summary of the background to the investigation

The field investigators are responsible for collecting epidemiological and tracing information using the SE Field Investigation Form (INT19/151002) as per section 5.1.2.

The field investigators escalate any significant issues identified during this visit to the SE Investigations Manager.

The veterinary investigator will email the SE Field Investigation form to the SE Investigations Manager at se.investigations@dpi.nsw.gov.au as soon as practicable.

The BFS Compliance investigator will email the Compliance Form to the SE Investigations Manager at se.investigations@dpi.nsw.gov.au as soon as practicable.

The SE Investigations Manager will ensure the forms are uploaded to EM Bis and inform the SE Program Veterinary Epidemiologist by email when this is complete.

4.4 Sampling

Sample collection and testing is funded by the government at the initial investigation and at key sampling times (appendix 3); sample collection and testing is at the operator's expense at all other times. An authorised officer under the Act who is trained in environmental sampling will collect samples at key sampling times. At all other times the owner/manager of the affected premises arranges sample collection and testing, through either a poultry veterinarian with expertise in environmental sampling, a trained authorised officer or collection by trained premises staff/owner.

All unlicensed premises (which should be licensed) will be visited by BFS Compliance as they may require additional enforcement activity.

When scheduling sampling the SE Investigations Manager is responsible for ensuring:

- The same authorised officer/s are assigned to a premise, where possible.
- There is a record of the person/organisation assigned to sampling each premise
- A break of seven days after a visit to a contaminated premise (IP/DCP) is programmed before subsequent visits
- A break of a minimum two days after a visit to premises (other than a contaminated premise) is programmed before subsequent visits or a longer break if this is mandated by the property's biosecurity plan or protocols.
- Staff who have any poultry or pet birds at home, even if they don't handle them, are excluded from participating in SE sampling activities.
- Staff must comply with the biosecurity plans/protocols of the premise
- A minimum of three days to elapse between disinfection of a premise and sampling
- The authorised officer complies with entry/exit [personal decontamination](#) protocol and additional property requirements
- Records collected are entered into EM Bis, including tracing information from contaminated premises

4.5 Sample collection by authorised officers

The SE Investigations Manager is responsible for contacting the manager of the authorised officer, where the authorised officer will be assigned to collect key samples on-farm and at egg handling facilities.

Authorised officers obtain sample kits by food.testresults@dpi.nsw.gov.au at the NSW Food Authority (FA). Preferably one week's notice is given when ordering sample kits. Sample kits can be sent by courier by the FA, Monday to Thursday (up to 2:30 pm).

The sample kit for surveillance sampling includes:

- Sampling equipment
- Diluents (need to be refrigerated)
- A sample submission form
- A consignment note for a courier service to the lab (the officer also can drop off the samples at the lab in person)
- A list of samples to be collected from the facility (only required for a first time sampler. He/she can keep this document for next time)

Samples for surveillance testing (but not for clearance sampling of IPs - see section 6.8) are collected as per the SE Sampling Guide (INT19/87584). An authorised officer may elect to collect further samples based on risk.

4.6 Sample submission

Testing is performed at laboratories which are NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accredited for *Salmonella* testing.

Samples collected by authorised officers are usually submitted to the laboratory approved by the Food Authority, currently DTS Food Assurance. However, samples can be submitted to Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Authorised officers must submit samples to EMAI when results are required as soon as possible, such as an initial field investigation due to a trace back from human cases or on DCPs, and does not require CVO approval. Submissions at other times to EMAI requires CVO approval.

A copy of the specimen advice form must be emailed to the SE Investigations Manager on the same day that samples are submitted and must record the case number.

4.7 Laboratory results

All results from both authorised officer and industry samples, are sent to: se.investigations@dpi.nsw.gov.au within three business days of the submitter receiving the results. The SE Investigations Manager will monitor the timely flow of surveillance results, and may task sampling by an authorised officer and/or the use of legal tools if needed to ensure compliance with the surveillance protocols.

Positive results from DTS laboratory are reported to the NSW Food Authority Science Unit which notifies the Food Authority CEO, the SE investigations manager, and in the instances where the samples have been collected by a LLS authorised officer, to the LLS submitter.

All other positive results are reported to the SE investigations manager who sends text notifications to the CVO and the SE Program Manager. The SE investigations manager sends email notifications to the NSW DPI media unit, the Animal Biosecurity Poultry Coordinator, the LLS region where the premise is located (either Team Leader AB&W or directly to the LLS submitter) and all SE program staff.

The CVO notifies the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer.

The SE Program Manager notifies the other members of the SE Steering Committee.

The Animal Biosecurity Poultry Coordinator informs the relevant LLS Team Leader Animal Biosecurity and Welfare (AB&W) and the NSW Poultry Health Liaison Group.

The SE Investigations Manager coordinates the provision of all laboratory results to the owner/manager of the premises.

The SE Investigations Manager reviews and coordinates the upload of all laboratory results to Em BIS – incident 22 and makes a note in the notes section of the date of sampling, who collected the sample and the result (if positive need to include the screening and culture results in the notes section of EM Bis and the individual samples that were positive).

4.8 Change of status of premises

Status changes are recommended by the SE Investigations Manager and approved by the CVO using the SE Program Status Change Authorisation Form (INT19/114027).

Once approved, the SE Investigations Manager attaches the form to the case in EM Bis.

The SE Investigations Manager informs the owner/manager of the property of any change in status.

All negative results require an update to the premise qualifier with the appropriate Assessed Negative qualifier.

The SE Investigations Manager updates the SE Surveillance Progress Spreadsheet in CM9 at: INT19/104730.

The SE Investigations Manager updates the premise status in LHMS as per the LHMS Field Guide.

4.9 Mapping of at risk premises

When an IP is confirmed the SE Investigations Manager tasks the BFS Geospatial Officers to download the contact details of all holdings within 2km of a new IP.

The SE Investigations Manager coordinates communication with and provides extension/advisory material to these neighbouring holdings within 2km of IPs.

All commercial layer premises within 2km of IPs are identified and new cases are created as needed.

The SE Investigations Manager recommends to the CVO (as per section 4.11) that all commercial layer premises within 2km of IPs are classified as at risk premises (ARPs) unless a higher risk status already applies.

5. Tracing

5.1 Initiation of tracing

5.1.1 Tracing as a result of NSW Health notification

BFS Compliance receives notification from NSW Health when human case(s) are detected and investigates potential linkages to an egg business.

When a veterinary investigation is required, BFS Compliance contacts the SE Investigations Manager who then organises a field visit as per section 4.3 of this procedure.

SE Investigations Manager checks to determine if the property is already an existing case. If not already an existing case, the SE Investigations Manager tasks the creation of a new case as per section 3.1.

The SE Investigations Manager assigns a TP or DCP status to the premise. The status will be reviewed post the outcome of the investigation.

5.1.2 Tracing of movements to and from IPs

The SE Investigations Manager is responsible for coordinating tracing activities and will identify, prioritise and investigate traces from IPs to validate if the movement is confirmed.

This may require tasking site visits to collect epidemiological information gathered about the IP which will be used to determine if there are contacts that require further investigation. This information will be recorded on the SE Field Investigation Form (INT19/151002).

The SE Field Investigation form and the Compliance Inspection Form will be reviewed to generate a list of traces which are recorded on the Tracing Details Form (INT19/53414).

5.2 Assigning Trace Premise status to trace properties identified

A Trace Premise (TP) status is assigned by the SE Investigations Manager in EM Bis.

5.3 Validation of traces

Once traces have been prioritised they need to be validated. Where a potential trace is identified the contact for the trace should be interviewed to confirm:

- What movements occurred
- Name of the person who is a trace or the moved trace item
- Date or date range of movement e.g. weekly since DD/MM/YYYY.
- Address/s and if known contact details of destinations or origins of trace

This information should be recorded using the Tracing Details Form (INT19/53414).and completed forms stored in EM Bis against any relevant case.

5.4 Evaluation of traces

Each trace should be assessed to evaluate the likelihood of spread to or from the TP. The likelihood will be based on:

- The time of the movement,
- The type of movement, and
- The biosecurity and decontamination associated with the movement.

Movement that occurred in the window of likely contamination or infection are more likely to result in spread. For example:

- Forward trace after egg grading facility known to have received contaminated eggs, or
- Backtrace from two to three months prior to identification of infection in flock (unless epidemiological assessment indicates that the flock was infected much earlier)

Movements with a higher likelihood of spread include:

- Live bird from flock that known or considered likely to be infected
- Eggs from flock that known or considered likely to be infected
- Egg truck or egg flats, pallets and packing from IP – prioritise those with reused packing over new
- Carcasses of infected birds
- Staff from IP who work on other poultry premises
- Equipment shared from IP to other poultry premises

Movements that may spread SE include:

- People who interact with birds and visit other poultry premises eg bird, delivery, technicians, vets, cullers etc.
- Other deliveries or collections e.g. feed, litter, manure

Movements with a lower likelihood of spread of SE include:

- People who don't enter bird sheds but visit other poultry premises

Movements with poor biosecurity or obvious contamination eg broken eggs are more likely to cause spread than movement with good biosecurity and decontamination.

Repeat movements are also more likely to cause spread of infection.

Validated traces considered to be of significant biosecurity risk and high likelihood of infection or contamination (e.g. common management) will be assigned a DCP status and will require ongoing surveillance to be undertaken in accordance with appendix 3. Where surveillance alone is insufficient to prevent spread of *Salmonella* Enteritidis an IBD may be issued to control movements and require enhanced biosecurity. This could include a test and hold protocol.

Validated traces considered to be of moderate to low likelihood of infection or contamination will be assigned a Trace Premise – Moderate Risk (TP – MR) status and will require ongoing surveillance to be undertaken in accordance with appendix 3.

Validated traces not considered to be a significant biosecurity risk will be assigned an ARP or POR status and receive a notification of their link to the IP and an information pack on biosecurity standards by the SE Investigations Manager.

Traces unable to be validated are abandoned and revert to the status of ARP or POR.

6. Management of Infected Premises

Note: Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, authorised officers have the power to issue biosecurity directions, including verbal and written Individual Biosecurity Directions (IBDs).

When the CVO has classified a premise as an IP, the following activities are required:

6.1 Issue a Verbal Individual Biosecurity Direction:

The SE Investigations Manager (or authorised officer delegate):

- Determines the conditions required for the IP based on the enterprise type, laboratory test results and the risks associated with the particular IP. The IBD template (available in CM9 at V19/2979#4) includes the types of directions including movement controls and decontamination requirements for an IP.
- Issues a verbal IBD to the owner/manager of the infected premise as soon as practicable. Talking points have been developed to assist the SE Investigations Manager in answering common questions. It is good practice to have a second officer as witness to the conversation
- Provides contact details to the recipient for the DPI/LLS LO who has already been identified

6.2 Draft and issue a written Individual Biosecurity Direction:

The SE Investigations Manager coordinates the drafting of a written IBD:

- IBD templates are available in CM9 at V19/2979#4.
- The draft IBD must first be circulated internally for review to the BFS Compliance Investigation Unit, the SE Operations Manager and the DPI/LLS LO.
- Legal branch reviews IBDs as required.

- Issue the written IBD electronically within three days of the verbal IBD.
- Save a copy (Word and PDF versions) of the IBD in CM9 at V19/2979#4, attach the PDF version in EM Bis and email a copy to the SE Program Manager and BFS Compliance.

BFS Compliance (or other authorised officer where appropriate):

- Serves a written copy of the IBD within seven days of the issuing of the verbal IBD.
- The requirements within the IBD must be clearly articulated to, and understood by the person to whom it is issued or through an interpreter if required.
- Contact details of the DPI/LLs LO and the Industry Technical Consultant should be supplied to the owner/manager for on-going advice when the IBD is issued.
- The SE IP Fact Sheet should also be provided to the recipient of the IBD.
- Record the details of the IBD in the [Enforcement and Sanction Tracking Spreadsheet](#)

6.3 Meeting Individual Biosecurity Direction requirements

Any costs associated with meeting IBD requirements will need to be met by commercial arrangement by the owner/ person in charge.

The SE Program Manager contacts Australian Eggs who will offer or an industry technical consultant to the owner/manager of each IP.

6.4 DPI/LLS Liaison Officer

For each IP, the SE Operations Manager will identify a DPI/LLS Liaison Officer (DPI/ LLS LO) who will assist the owner/manager with finding solutions to enable compliance with the IBD and escalates any issues hindering compliance with the IBD to the SE Operations Manager.

The SE Operations Manager is responsible for creating a record of premises assigned to each DPI/LLS LO in CM9 INT19/104729 – Infected Premise Destruction Disposal Status.

6.5 Permits

Permits are usually required to allow the movement of materials or things otherwise excluded by the IBD on the property. The SE Operations Manager is responsible for permits, including:

- Determining the conditions of the permit and drafting into the permit template available in CM9 at V19/2979#4.
- Saving the permit into CM9 INT19/2979#4
- Issuing the permit to the individual/s who require the permit (note: permits can be issued electronically when appropriate)
Emailing a PDF copy of the permit to BFS Compliance Investigations Manager for tracking on the [Enforcement and Sanction Tracking Spreadsheet](#).

6.6 Field visit for an infected premise

The SE Investigations Manager will assess the need for a field visit for the purpose of epidemiological assessment and collection of tracing information.

If a field visit is required the SE Investigations Manager:

- informs the DPI/LLS LO who communicates with the owner/manager of the IP, and
- tasks a field investigation by an authorised officer.

If the investigation will be done by LLS the SE Investigations Manager should confirm with BFS Compliance and DPI/LLS LO if they wish to attend.

The field investigator is responsible for collecting epidemiological and tracing information using the SE Field Investigation Form (INT19/151002) as per section 5.1.2.

The field investigator should escalate any significant issues raised during this visit, including the welfare of the producer or chickens, to the SE Operations Manager. The LLS field

investigator and BFS Compliance will email the information gathered during the field to the investigations manager at se.investigations@dpi.nsw.gov.au

The SE investigations manager will ensure the forms are uploaded to EM Bis and inform the SE Program veterinary epidemiologist by email when this is complete.

6.7 Managing Individual Biosecurity Direction compliance with decontamination requirements

The decontamination plan must be submitted by email to se.investigations@dpi.nsw.gov.au by the IP's industry/veterinary consultant (the consultant must have recognised industry expertise).

The SE Investigations Manager will forward the decontamination plan to the Team Leader Animal Biosecurity Risk Management for review to ensure it meets minimum acceptable standards and will liaise with the industry consultant to ensure rigour of the plan

Decontamination can only commence at the IP after an authorised officer, or the DPI/LLS Liaison officer has given notice that decontamination in accordance with the plan can proceed.

The industry technical consultant will advise SE Investigations Manager in writing when the decontamination plan has been implemented satisfactorily.

The SE Investigations Manager will request BFS Compliance to conduct a pre-swabbing compliance check to verify compliance with IBD requirements (before swabbing for clearance testing) and compliance with SE Control Order.

6.8 Post decontamination laboratory testing ('clearance testing')

Following confirmation from BFS Compliance that decontamination requirements in the IBD have been met (as above in 6.7) and that all Food Safety and SE Control Order requirements have been met, the SE Investigations Manager will arrange environmental swabbing and laboratory testing to resolve the IP status. This will be conducted as per appendix 3.

Sampling for clearance testing for IPs will be based upon earlier sampling activities at the particular site. The SE Investigations Manager will direct those involved in sampling activities to the BFS Compliance Investigations Manager officer for guidance on samples required for clearance testing.

6.9 Resolving Infected Premise status

Upon confirmation from BFS Compliance that directions in the IBD have been met and the receipt of negative laboratory results for resolution of IP status, the SE Investigations Manager makes a recommendation in writing to the CVO for the status to be changed from IP to RP.

Once approved by the CVO, the SE Investigations Manager changes the status in EM Bis and records a reason for the change in EM Bis.

The SE Investigations Manager must email BFS Compliance and the SE Program Coordinator to notify them of the status change.

The IBD for the IP is revoked by BFS Compliance and appropriate records updated in CM9 V19/2979#4 and the google spread sheet.

6.10 New Individual Biosecurity Direction for restocking

To help mitigate ongoing SE risks and communicate changes with the owner, the SE investigations manager must draft a new IBD and write a letter to the owner of an RP that is restocking with poultry (or returning to poultry production).

The IBD may include requirements for:

- continued implementation of a biosecurity plan,
- ongoing monthly surveillance for SE. Restocking specifications for the poultry and origin of poultry for restocking.
- Other unique requirements specific to SE risks associated with the property.

The letter is available must include statements that:

- even after undertaking decontamination, rodent control and good biosecurity there is no guarantee that SE eradication will be successful, and
- any future costs associated with SE, or the recurrence of SE, at the property will need to be met by commercial arrangement by the owner/ person in charge. This would include, but not be limited to, the costs of depopulation, disposal and decontamination.

Previous IBDs for restocking and letters can be found at INT19/2979#4.

6.11 Infected Premises leaving commercial poultry and/or egg production

All IPs, whether aiming to restock or to exit the layer/egg industry are required to comply with the initial requirements of the IBD, which usually means movement controls, rodent control and gross removal of organic material.

For IPs that choose to exit the layer/egg industry:

- A new IBD for a producer not restocking must be drafted and issued and the original IBD should be revoked, or the original IBD should be varied to include the changes.
- As per the new IBD, a person with expertise in the decontamination of poultry facilities (such as a poultry industry veterinarian) will inspect the property and provide a property specific decontamination plan for removal of gross organic material and dry cleaning of the property for the purpose of not restocking.
- The decontamination plan must be submitted by email to se.investigations@dpi.nsw.gov.au by the IP's industry/veterinary consultant (the consultant must have recognised industry expertise).
- The SE Investigations Manager will forward the decontamination plan to the Team Leader Animal Biosecurity Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery for review to ensure it meets minimum acceptable standards and will liaise with the industry consultant to ensure rigour of the plan
- Decontamination can only commence at the IP after an authorised officer, or the DPI/LLS Liaison officer has given notice that decontamination in accordance with the plan can proceed.
- The industry technical consultant will advise that SE Investigations Manager in writing when gross removal of organic material and dry cleaning has been implemented in accordance with the decontamination plan.
- SE Investigations Manager will request an authorised officer (usually LLS) to verify compliance with the IBD requirements (particularly removal of organic material and dry cleaning).
- An authorised officer (usually LLS) signs off that the requirements of the IBD have been met, in particular, that gross removal of organic material and dry cleaning has been carried out adequately and in accordance with the decontamination plan. The date of sign-off is referred to as the 'signing-off' date for this section of the procedure.
- After signing-off, a revised IBD is issued to the owner/manager (and to any new owner/manager of the property while the IP status remains).
 - This revised IBD should be as streamlined as possible would typically include the following:
 - No poultry production or egg production/commercial handling is allowed on the property for 3 years from the signing off date
 - No vehicles and equipment from the property are allowed to be moved onto other commercial poultry/egg handling enterprises for 3 years from the signing off date

- Ongoing rodent control is needed for the property for 3 years from the signing off date
- No poultry or other animals are to be kept within poultry sheds on the property for 3 years from the signing off date
- The owner must notify any potential purchaser or lessee of the property about the IBD requirements.
- Notify the DPI of any changes to property ownership or lessee arrangements for use of the property.
 - A 'flag' in Byte will notify the Food Authority if a commercial egg-production licence is applied for in relation to the premise.
- The IP status remains on the property until 3 years has elapsed from the signing-off date [unless the owner/manager changes their mind and takes the steps necessary to gain Resolved Premises (RP) status (i.e. disinfection and clearance sampling of two negative tests)].
- After 3 years has elapsed since the signing-off date, the IP status is removed.
 - If restocked with commercial layers/egg handling facilities at or after this point in time, the Food Authority can require clearance testing (two consecutive negative rounds of samples) prior to restocking. After clearance testing the premise will be assigned a status of Premise of Relevance (POR - i.e. the same status as any other 'background' commercial layer/egg facility in the state) and only any state-wide mandated biosecurity and surveillance measures will apply.
 - If not restocked with commercial layers/egg handling facilities, no status is assigned in relation to *Salmonella* Enteritidis and no further mandated biosecurity and surveillance measures are required.

6.12 Resolved Premises leaving commercial poultry and/or egg production

Previously infected premises which have achieved resolved status and choose to exit the commercial poultry/egg production industries do not need to be issued with a new IBD.

The SE Investigations Manager will request BFS Compliance place a flag in Byte which will notify the Food Authority if a commercial egg-production licence is applied for in relation to the premise.

These properties are assigned an N/A status.

If the Food Authority receives an application in less than 3 years for a commercial poultry licence, the applicant must be advised if the licence is approved, they will be

- issued with an IBD as per section 6.10,
- revert to an RP, and
- follow the surveillance protocol for re-stocked properties as per appendix 3.

7. Egg recalls

The NSW Food Authority liaises with an affected egg business to determine whether an egg recall, usually voluntary, is required, coordinates public messaging, and notifies the CVO and the SE Program Manager of the egg recall.

8. Reporting

Each fortnight, the SE Investigations Manager will run a report on premise classifications from Tableaux and include this in the DPI-LLS newsletter, with a brief summary of key activities (e.g. any IPs to RPs, any new IPs and associated other high-risk properties).

Each fortnight the SE Program Manager and representatives from NSW Health, NSW DPI Animal Biosecurity Unit (as required) and BFS Food Incident Response & Complaints Unit will meet for an update on the SE outbreak in people and chicken farms/egg handling facilities.

Each fortnight, the SE Program Manager will prepare and circulate an SE Program Situation report (SitRep).

The SE Epi Technical Expert analyses epidemiological information in relation to *Salmonella* Enteritidis in New South Wales and produces epidemiological reports as required for relevant internal and external stakeholders.

Definitions

AB&W	Animal Biosecurity and Welfare
ARP	At Risk Premises
BFS	Biosecurity and Food Safety
BIS	Biosecurity Information System
CM9	Content Manager version 9 by Hewlett Packard Enterprise
CVO	NSW Chief Veterinary Officer
DCP	Dangerous Contact Premises
EMAI	Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute
EM BIS	Emergency management section within the Biosecurity Information System
FA	Food Authority
IBD	Individual Biosecurity Direction
IP	Infected Premises
LHMS	Livestock Health Management System
LLS	Local Land Services
MR	Moderate Risk
NATA	National Association of Testing Authorities
NSW DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries
PIC	Property Identification Code
POR	Premises of Relevance
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
RP	Resolved Premises
SE	<i>Salmonella</i> Enteritidis
SP	Suspect Premise
TP	Trace Premise

Appendices

1. SE Case Definitions
2. SE Premises Classifications
3. SE Surveillance Protocol

Documents referred to in this procedure

- [SE Documents on External Webpage](#)
- [Primefact – The general biosecurity duty and poultry producers](#)
- SE Steering Committee Terms of Reference INT19/128792
- SE Technical Working Group Terms of Reference INT19/113837
- SE Surveillance Progress Spreadsheet INT19/104730
- SE IP Destruction and Disposal Status Spreadsheet INT19/104729
- SE Field Investigation Form INT19/151002
- SE Sampling Guide INT19/87584
- SE Program Status Change Authorisation Form INT19/114027
- [LHMS Field Guide](#)
- [BIS Emergency Response User Guide](#)

- Tracing Details Form INT19/53414
- IBD Templates V19/2979#4
- Infected Premise Destruction Disposal Status INT19/104729
- [Enforcement and Sanction Tracking Spreadsheet](#)

Related policies and procedures

- Policy - Endemic pests and diseases of animals
- Policy - Government Information (Public Access) (IND-I-178)
- Policy - Information Security (IND-I-197)
- Policy - Records Management (IND-I-177)
- Policy - Classified Information (IND-I-196)
- Procedure - Reporting notifiable pests and diseases of animals
- Procedure - Biosecurity collection, use and disclosure of information

Records

Records created as a result of this procedure are stored in the Livestock Health Management System (LHMS) according to the [BIS Emergency Response User Guide](#). The BIS emergency response guide is to be read in conjunction with the LHMS Field Guide. EM Bis records created in relation to SE include records about advice, surveillance activities, tracing and laboratory reports/results.

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1.0	26/08/2019	New procedure	Animal Biosecurity and Welfare

Contact

Biosecurity NSW
 General Enquiries 1800 808 095
biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Appendix 1 Case definitions

1. A **commercial layer flock** is infected with *Salmonella* Enteritidis when:
 - i. *Salmonella* Enteritidis has been detected by PCR or culture in bird(s) OR
 - ii. *Salmonella* Enteritidis has been detected by PCR or culture in environmental sample(s) **[see NOTE]** from poultry manure, eggs or swabs collected from the housing/range area.

2. An **egg handling facility** is contaminated with *Salmonella* Enteritidis when:
 - i. *Salmonella* Enteritidis has been detected by PCR or culture in environmental sample(s) **[see NOTE]** from swabs collected from the floor of the egg handling facility, egg contact areas or eggs.

NOTE: In instances where less than three positive environmental samples are initially detected by PCR on a premise, the Investigations Manager will provide a documented recommendation to the CVO as to whether the case definition has been met or whether repeat sampling is required.

The documented recommendation to the CVO will include the following:

- Number of positive samples
- Location where positive samples were sourced
- Laboratory test(s) used
- Epidemiological links to other known cases in humans, poultry flocks or egg handling facilities

Production area means any of the following:

- ii. the area where eggs are produced on a premises required to be licensed under the *Food Act 2003* and Food Regulation 2015,
- iii. the area where poultry are bred, raised or kept for meat or egg production on a premises required to be licensed under the *Food Act 2003* and Food Regulation 2015

Appendix 2 Premises classifications

Infected Premise (IP)

- A defined area (which may be all or part of a property) on which a commercial layer flock and/or an egg handling facility meeting the case definition is or was present, or the NSW Chief Veterinary Officer has reasonable suspicion that a commercial layer flock infected with *Salmonella* Enteritidis is or was present.

Resolved Premise (RP):

- A premise that was an infected premise, that has completed decontamination, passed an audit, and had two consecutive rounds of sampling with no positive results

Suspect Premise (SP):

- Temporary classification of a premise that contains layers (including chicks or pullets) showing clinical signs consistent with SE infection that therefore requires investigation(s).

Dangerous Contact Premise (DCP):

- A premise that, after investigation and based on a risk assessment, action is required to prevent, minimise or eliminate the risk of spread of SE, and
 - The premises contains commercial layers (including pullets or chicks being grown as layers) not showing clinical signs, but considered by an authorised officer in the Animal Biosecurity Unit as highly likely to be infected with SE, and/or
 - Part or all of the premises or things within the premise are suspected to be contaminated with SE

Trace Premises (TP):

- Temporary classification of a premise that requires investigation(s) because tracing indicates it either:
 - Contains susceptible layers (including pullets or chicks being grown for laying) that may have been exposed to SE, and/or
 - Part or all of the premises or things within the premise could be contaminated with SE
- After an epidemiological assessment and/or laboratory investigation a TP will progress to:
 - An IP if it meets IP definition, or
 - a DCP if tracing is confirmed and the risk of infection/contamination is assessed as high, or
 - a TP with qualifier of Moderate risk (MR) if tracing is confirmed and surveillance is required to manage the moderate to low risk of spread of SE, or
 - an ARP or POR if tracing is not confirmed or the trace is assessed as very low risk of spreading SE (low likelihood and consequence) or abandoned.

At Risk Premises (ARP):

- A premise that is within a two (2) kilometre radius of any IP, and
 - is used currently or was in the last two (2) years to hold commercial layers and is not currently classified as a SP, TP, DCP, or IP, or
 - is currently an egg handling facility and has not been classified as a SP, TP, DCP, or IP

Premises of Relevance (POR):

- A layer premise (including layer chicks or pullets) or egg handling facility within NSW that is more than a two (2) kilometre radius from any IP AND is used currently, or was used in

the last two (2) years, to hold any commercial poultry or to process eggs/ egg products
AND is not a TP, SP, DCP, or IP.

NOTE: Normally all flocks, sheds and egg handling facilities on the same premise will be assigned the same premise classification, unless the Investigations Manager undertakes a documented risk assessment and recommends to the CVO that different statuses should apply to different facilities on the same premise.

Appendix 3 Surveillance Protocol

Premise classification	Surveillance
Infected Premise	<p><i>When inspected as compliant with their IBD and approved decontamination plan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Two rounds of environmental sampling collected from all production areas, at least three days apart.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>An authorised officer will collect these samples.</i> <p>At initial visit an authorised officer to complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE Field Investigation Form (INT19/151002) • Compliance Inspection Checklist (if compliance officer)
Resolved Premise (RP)	<p>For stand-alone egg handling facilities : <i>Sampling of egg contact surfaces at two and four weeks after production resumes followed by monitoring at three (3), six (6), nine (9) and 12 months post resumption.</i></p> <p>For all premises with birds (including those with onsite egg handling facility):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>First environmental sampling of all production areas at point of lay, then monthly environmental sampling of all production areas for 12 months</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Authorised officer will sample at four (4) and 12 months.</i> • <i>Birds must be sourced from a supplier that monitors for SE. Prior to restocking, the source birds' environment is tested ≤1 month before arrival with negative results, at operator's expense.</i> • <i>Daily monitoring & recording of mortality rates and egg production. To be made available for inspection by a government officer on request</i> • <u>Need veterinary oversight of the flock for 12 months and investigation of any events that are potentially due to SE infection.</u> • <i>Operator or private veterinarian to report any suspicion of SE infection in the flock immediately via the EAD hotline on 1800 675 888.</i>
Dangerous Contact Premise (DCP)	<p>Authorised officer to complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE Field Investigation Form • Compliance Inspection Checklist (if compliance officer) <p>For all premises with birds (including those with onsite egg handling facilities):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monthly environmental sampling of all production areas for six (6) months.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Authorised officer will conduct visits at initial visit and Week 12.</i> • <i>Daily monitoring & recording of mortality rates and egg production by operator. To be made available for inspection by a government officer on request.</i> • <u>Need veterinary oversight of the flock and investigation of</u>

Premise classification	Surveillance
	<p>any events that are potentially due to SE infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operator or private veterinarian to report any suspicion of SE infection in the flock immediately via the EAD hotline on 1800 675 888. <p>Note if the flock is re-exposed through an additional high risk trace they must complete a minimum of an additional six (6) months of monthly testing.</p> <p>For stand-alone egg handling facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two rounds of environmental sampling collected from all production areas, at least three days apart. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorised officer will collect these samples <p>For empty sheds that previously held birds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two rounds of environmental sampling collected from all production areas, at least three days apart. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorised officer will collect these samples If restocked within a three-year period, ongoing monthly environmental sampling for six (6) months. <p>For layer rearing facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For six (6) months undertake Environmental sampling prior to movement of birds to layer sheds/site.
Trace Premise (TP) assessed moderate or low risk SE	<p>Trace back surveillance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorised officer will conduct a surveillance visit as soon as possible which may include environmental sampling of production areas. <p>Trace forward surveillance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An authorised officer will conduct a surveillance visit, including environmental sampling of production areas, of birds at three (3) months and six (6) months post potential exposure. An authorised officer will conduct a surveillance visit as soon as possible, including environmental sampling of production areas, at potentially exposed stand-alone egg handling facilities. <p>Note premises may be both forward and back traces.</p>
Trace Premise (TP) assessed very low risk	Notified re potential link to a property with SE and provided advice and/or referred to Industry/private veterinarians for advice to improve biosecurity.
At Risk Premise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental sampling of all production areas every three (3) months for six (6) months (i.e. 0, three (3) and six (6) months).