

**Northern
Ireland
Poultry Health
Assurance
Scheme**



NIPHAS

Members Handbook

March 2023



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

This document/publication is also available on our website at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/niphas-members-handbook-and-application-form

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Introduction to the Revision: What is new?

The Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) is based on the rules required for registration and approval of premises in order to export to the EU and some other countries. The underlying EU legal instrument, Directive 2009/158, was repealed following legislative changes introduced by the EU Animal Health Law (Regulation 2016/429).

The updated requirements are listed in [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2035](#). Granting approval of hatcheries is described in Article 7 and approval of establishments (farms) is laid down in Article 8 of the Regulation. The detailed requirements for biosecurity measures, disease surveillance, microbiological control programme, facilities, personnel and supervision by the Competent Authority are listed in Annexes I and II of the same Regulation.

Although the objective and the scope of the Scheme has not changed, the Regulation added some additional details to the requirements. The main differences are as below:

- The existing requirement to operate a microbiological control programme at the hatchery has been further specified to require at least 60 samples to be taken every 6 weeks (see Annex I. (1)).
- Salmonella sampling is required at the hatchery to complement the surveillance on farm (see Annex I. (2.a)).
- An additional initial sampling time was added to the Mycoplasma testing schedule (see Annex I. (7)).
- Clinical examination is now required as part of the disease surveillance.
- Some records must be retained for longer under the new rules.

As part of the review, we aimed to simplify the structure of this document, so it provides a helpful guide to industry, flock veterinarians, authorised Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) as well as Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) staff.

Section A - Introduction, Summary and Definitions

1. Introduction and Definitions

This handbook contains:

- Information for flock owners and exporters
- Information for DAERA staff
- Information for approved Private Veterinary Practitioners (aPVPs) and flock veterinarians

The NIPHAS is based on the requirements of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 (hereafter, the Regulation), supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for establishments keeping terrestrial animals and hatcheries, and the traceability of certain kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs. In the EU and Northern Ireland, this Regulation repealed and replaced [Council Directive 2009/158/EC](#) on animal health conditions governing intra-Union trade in, and imports from third countries of, poultry and hatching eggs.

The Scheme comprises the rules for the registration and approval of premises intending to export poultry and hatching eggs from Northern Ireland to the EU or to Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) members in GB. Some non-EU countries also require the premises of origin of some poultry consignments to be part of a 'Government supervised poultry health scheme', in which case the reference in the Export Health Certificate means the NIPHAS.

'Poultry' is defined in Article 4 of Regulation 2016/429 as birds that are reared or kept in captivity for

- a. the production of
 - i. meat;
 - ii. eggs for consumption;
 - iii. other products;
- b. restocking supplies of game birds;
- c. the purpose of breeding of birds used for the types of production referred to in points (a) and (b).

'Day-old chicks' means all poultry less than 72 hrs old.

'Hatching eggs' means eggs, laid by poultry or captive birds, intended for incubation.

'Breeding poultry' means poultry 72 hours old or more, intended for the production of hatching eggs.

'Productive Poultry' means poultry 72 hours old or more, reared for the production of meat, eggs for consumption or other products or for restocking supplies of game birds.

'Flock' means all poultry of the same health status kept on the same premises or in the same enclosure and constituting a single epidemiological unit; in housed poultry, this includes all birds sharing the same airspace.

The NIPHAS does **not** apply to poultry only used for exhibitions, shows or contests and does **not** apply to table eggs or poultry meat.

2. Who is the NIPHAS aimed at?

If you keep poultry, and you wish to either:

- (a) export more than 20 birds for purposes other than slaughter or hatching eggs from Northern Ireland to a EU member State
- (b) sell birds or eggs to other NIPHAS members or members of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) in GB; or
- (c) export to certain countries that require compliance (in full or partially) with EU Regulation 2019/2035 or equivalent;

then, your premises must be officially **approved** and **registered** as a member of the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS). For export to the EU, the Export Health Certificates require that live poultry and hatching eggs must come from flocks which have been held for more than six weeks in one or more establishments approved under the Scheme.

If you export poultry in lots of under 20 birds to the EU, you do not need to be a member of the NIPHAS. However, you still need to comply with certain essential rules and consignments must be accompanied by the relevant model certificate included in [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/403](#) for this purpose and requiring certification of the compliance with certain essential EU rules.

If you intend to export poultry (or their hatching eggs) to the EU or a third country, you should always consult your local Divisional Veterinary Office (DVO) in advance for further details as there may be additional requirements, e.g. be on a list of eligible establishments for export to a particular country, specific export health certification conditions and/or testing requirements.

3. Which birds are covered?

The NIPHAS only covers poultry premises and hatcheries. NIPHAS approved premises must house only poultry. Where appropriate the Scheme premises may be defined as a separate part of a larger establishment. However, in that case there must be clear separation between the parts of the premises if they are not all to be covered by Scheme rules.

4. How to join the Poultry Health Scheme

- (a) To join the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme you must complete the application form which can be obtained from the DAERA website - www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/niphass-members-handbook-and-application-form
- (b) Arrangements will then be made for an initial inspection of your premises by a DAERA veterinarian. This inspection will establish whether your premises and its management procedures meet the requirements of Regulation 2019/2035 (as amended). (These requirements are outlined in Section C of this Handbook).

- (c) The DAERA Veterinarian inspecting your premises will discuss with you how the requirements of the Regulation apply to your particular circumstances. After the inspection you will be advised of any changes that you may need to make to your premises, or operational procedures, to comply fully with the requirements.
- (d) Depending on the species of poultry and other circumstances, e.g. resident birds and origin of the birds, you may need to undertake initial rounds of testing for Salmonella and Mycoplasma before being able to export. A general requirement for export is that the eggs/birds originate from premises that have been approved under the Scheme for more than 6 weeks. Initial testing must take place during this period. (See Section C 3.2 for details).
- (e) Systematic records, detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and, in the case of hatcheries, a description and procedures for the microbiological control programme as referred to in Article 7 of Regulation 2019/2035, along with results of the specified tests, must be kept and must be available for inspection.
- (f) Although the (now repealed) Directive already required NIPHAS members to have a microbiological control programme in place, Regulation 2019/2035 specifies further details regarding the numbers of samples and the frequency of sampling that are required in order to achieve compliance with this requirement of the Scheme.
- (g) If the veterinary inspection of your premises and operations is satisfactory and your premises are approved, then you will be issued with a membership number and a membership certificate will be sent to you. You will then be sent an invoice for the scheme registration fee. If you fail to pay this invoice within the required time, your membership will be cancelled. If the outcome of the inspection is not satisfactory (see also paragraph 3 above), DAERA will write to you to confirm the reasons for failing to meet the required standards and to provide you with the corrective actions needed before membership can be recommended and to inform you if a further visit may be required for this purpose, depending on the nature of the correction actions to be taken. If a further visit is required, it will be charged to the applicant at the standard DAERA inspection rate.
- (h) The starting date for your membership will be the date of the satisfactory inspection visit but note if you have resident birds you will not be eligible for export to the EU until 6 weeks after this date (or 6 weeks from the date the premises was populated with poultry from a non approved source, whichever is the later) due to requirements in the relevant Export Health Certificates. Additional testing may also be required for newly registered premises during this period, depending on the origin and NIPHAS status of the birds. As an exception, NIPHAS membership is not required for the export to the EU of poultry and hatching eggs for consignments comprising fewer than twenty units and such consignments can be certified using a dedicated Export Health Certificate. NIPHAS membership and differing residency periods may be required by the competent authorities of countries outside the EU. Such requirements are specified in the relevant Export Health Certificate. Model Export Health Certificates can be found on the [Form Finder pages of Gov.uk](#).
- (i) From the starting date of your membership, birds and hatching eggs may only enter your flock/hatchery from the following sources:

(i) from Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme establishments or from establishments approved under the equivalent Great Britain Poultry Health Scheme (PHS);

(ii) from similarly approved establishments in other European Member States; or

(iii) imported from third countries in accordance with [Regulation EU 2020/692](#)

(iv) In the case of a hatchery which has been approved for less than 6 weeks, day-old birds may only be moved to establishments in the GB. Eggs and day-old birds must only be exported to another EU Member State if the 6 weeks approval period for the hatchery and the flock(s) of origin has elapsed at the time of dispatch for export.

- (j) If you have a special requirement to introduce stock from non-NIPHAS sources, in order to enrich your genetic base, you must contact your local DVO to discuss the necessary procedures, which may involve quarantine and testing (at designated laboratories for the purpose of the NIPHAS) of the introduced birds and/or temporary suspension of your membership until the Scheme requirements are fulfilled.
- (k) A veterinary inspection, by an authorised Private Veterinary Practitioner (aPVP) will be required every year. The fees of the aPVP for the inspection will be a matter of private arrangement between the aPVP and the member, and they will be in addition to the annual membership charge payable to the Department.
- (l) Membership of the Scheme will last for one year (365 days).
- (m) Membership may be suspended or withdrawn if any of the membership rules are contravened, or if Avian Influenza, Newcastle disease, salmonellas or mycoplasmas covered by the Scheme, are suspected and/or confirmed on your premises (see Section B, Point 7).

5. Data protection

The Department takes data protection, freedom of information and environmental information issues seriously. It takes care to ensure that any personal information received from you is dealt with in a way which complies with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act (2018). This means that any personal information you supply will be processed principally for the purpose for which it has been provided. However, the Department is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided for this purpose.

A full copy of the DAERA Privacy Statement can be found [here](#)

Section B – Membership management

1. Aim of the NIPHAS

To implement a system for the approval and registration of establishments in Northern Ireland officially recognised as meeting the requirements of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for establishments keeping terrestrial animals and hatcheries, and the traceability of certain kept terrestrial animals and hatching eggs (as amended).

2. Administration

The Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS) is operated by the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA). Queries in relation to NIPHAS should be directed to tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk.

3. Membership

- (a) Membership of the Scheme is open to individuals or companies in Northern Ireland, operating at specified premises. A member operating with separate premises at more than one location will be required to register each individual premises separately.
- (b) The categories of membership of the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme are:
 - (i) Flock;
 - (ii) Hatchery; and
 - (iii) Combined Flock and Hatchery.
- (c) Membership of the Scheme must be approved by DAERA. A member may withdraw from the Scheme at any time (notice in writing will be required) but will not be entitled to a refund of any part of the registration or membership fees.
- (d) Members must inform DAERA of any changes to the information submitted on their application or cessation of activity of the operator or established concerned
- (e) Re-admission to the Scheme will be at DAERA's discretion. A further registration fee will be payable.
- (f) When a member's premises is sold, or otherwise transferred, the new occupant must apply for membership in the usual way. Such sales or transfers must not be made on the assumption that the premises will automatically continue to qualify for membership of the Scheme.

4. Application for Membership

The application form should be returned to tradeadminpost@daera-ni.gov.uk. DAERA will process your application and ensure that a veterinary inspection is arranged as soon as possible.

5. Acceptance onto Scheme

- (a) Once a satisfactory veterinary inspection report has been received by DAERA an individual registration number will be allocated. A membership certificate including this number will be issued to the member. You will then be sent an invoice for the scheme registration fee. If you fail to pay this invoice within the required time, your membership will be cancelled.
- (b) After the initial approval, a chargeable veterinary inspection by an authorised Private veterinary Practitioner (aPVP) will be required every year. You will also be asked to pay an annual membership fee.

6. Annual Inspections

- (a) Members will have their annual inspections carried out by an aPVP nominated by the member. The nominated aPVP must be authorised by the Department to carry out NIPHAS inspections, and not employed by the member. Your local DAERA office can supply a list of such aPVPs if required.
- (b) It is the member's responsibility to arrange for the aPVP to make the annual inspection. The fees for the inspection are a matter for private arrangement between the aPVP and the member, and they will be in addition to the annual membership charge payable to the DAERA.
- (c) The Department may make supplementary audit inspections during the course of the membership year. The cost of administration and the supplementary audit inspections are covered by the annual membership charge.
- (d) Where members have had an annual inspection carried out by an aPVP and the establishment and/or its management procedures do not meet the requirements of the scheme, a re-inspection will be carried out by a DAERA Veterinarian before membership is re-established. If membership is suspended or withdrawn, then a visit by a DAERA Veterinarian may be required before suspension is lifted. Such visits will be chargeable.
- (e) The member must provide facilities and give such assistance as is necessary to allow such inspections to take place.

7. Suspensions and Withdrawal of approval

(1) Membership will be suspended for any of the below reasons:

- (a) If the conditions laid down in Articles 7 and 8 to Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 are no longer met (as outlined in Section C);
- (b) Pending the completion of disease investigation if:
 - (i) avian influenza or Newcastle disease is suspected on the premises;
 - (ii) poultry or hatching eggs have been received from establishments with a suspected or confirmed case of avian influenza or Newcastle disease;

- (iii) contact liable to transmit disease has occurred with establishments where avian influenza or Newcastle disease has been confirmed;
- (c) subject to the relevance for the particular poultry species, while further tests are performed if the results of surveillance at establishment or hatchery indicate suspicion of infection with *Salmonella Pullorum*, *Salmonella Gallinarum* or pathogenic *Salmonella arizonae* of turkeys, or *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* or *Mycoplasma meleagridis*;
- (d) until completion of measures required by a notice served by a DAERA Veterinarian if the appropriate disease surveillance (if required) is not carried out at the establishment and/or the establishment does not satisfy the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/2035, outlined in Section C;
- (e) if your membership has lapsed beyond the 365-day period;
- (f) if fees are not paid to DAERA;
- (g) if a satisfactory veterinary inspection has not been completed within the previous 12 months.

2. Membership will be withdrawn for any of the below reasons:

- (a) if avian influenza or Newcastle disease is confirmed on the premises;
- (b) if, subject to the relevance for the particular poultry species, the presence of *Salmonella Pullorum*, *Salmonella Gallinarum*, pathogenic turkey *Salmonella arizonae* strains, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* or *Mycoplasma meleagridis* is confirmed on the premises or at the hatchery where applicable;
- (c) if, after a DAERA veterinarian has served a second notice, requiring to implement the appropriate disease surveillance at the establishment and/or to bring the establishment in line with the requirements of Regulation 2019/2035, as outlined in this Handbook and action has not been taken;
- (d) if membership has lapsed beyond the 365-day period and DAERA has not received confirmation of renewal;
- (e) if fees are not paid to DAERA;
- (f) if a satisfactory veterinary inspection report has not been completed within the previous 12 months.

8. Restoration of Membership

Approval may be restored if it was withdrawn for one or more of the below reasons:

- (a) Confirmation of avian influenza or Newcastle disease: membership may be restored 21 days after completion of the cleansing and disinfection protocol following depopulation.
- (b) because of infection caused by *Salmonella Pullorum*, *Gallinarum* or pathogenic *arizonae* strains of turkeys, it may be restored following:
 - (i) The infected flock has been slaughtered or killed and destroyed;
 - (ii) Following the slaughter or killing of the infected flock the establishment has been cleaned and disinfected;
 - (iii) Following the cleaning and disinfection all flocks on the establishment tested negative for infection with *Salmonella Pullorum*, *S. Gallinarum* and *S. arizone* in two tests performed with an interval of at least 21 days in accordance with the surveillance programme (see Section C).

The DAERA Veterinarian will advise on the numbers and type of samples required and may instruct DAERA staff to carry out the testing to verify the effectiveness of disinfection.

- (c) subject to the relevance for the particular poultry species, because of the presence of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* or *Mycoplasma meleagridis*, it may be restored after either:
 - (i) Subject to the relevance for the particular poultry species, because of the presence of *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* or *Mycoplasma meleagridis*, it may be restored after either: the infected flock tested negative for avian mycoplasmosis (*Mycoplasma galiisepticum* and *M.meleagridis*) in two tests in accordance with the surveillance programme (see section C) on the entire flock with an interval of at least 60 days;
or
 - (ii) the infected flock has been slaughtered or it has been killed and destroyed, the establishment has been cleaned and disinfected and following the cleaning and disinfection all flocks on the establishment tested negative for avian mycoplasmosis (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum* and *M. meleagridis*) in two tests performed with an interval of at least 21 days in accordance with the surveillance programme referred to in section C.
- (d) Non-compliance with the rules of Regulation 2019/2035, subject to notices served by an DAERA veterinarian: membership may be restored when DAERA agrees that all the requirements of the Regulation are being complied with.
- (e) Membership has lapsed beyond the 365-day period and a satisfactory annual visit has not been completed: membership may be restored at the discretion of DAERA. A satisfactory inspection must be completed, and a further registration fee will be payable.

9. Fees

- (a) The current fees are available on the DAERA website at the following link. The Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme Fees will be reviewed annually.

[Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme \(NIPHAS\) Fees](#)

- (b) The registration fee is payable by new members when they join the Scheme. DAERA will issue an invoice when the registration fee is due to be paid.
- (c) The membership fee is payable on acceptance into the Scheme and then annually prior to expiry of the membership certificate. An invoice for the annual fee will be issued by DAERA following the completion of each annual inspection.
- (d) A separate Inspection fee will be charged for any re-inspections carried out by an DAERA Veterinarian in connection with follow-up visits to ascertain that any non-compliances regarding premises, operational standards or disease status have been rectified or resolved or for the purpose of lifting a suspension or a re-approval visit.
- (e) Any member who fails to pay any fee due to DAERA under the Scheme may have membership of the Scheme suspended or revoked in relation to the premises in respect of which the fee is due. The member will be informed in writing and given an opportunity to make representations.

10. List of approved establishments and advertisements

- (a) The Regulation (EU) 2016/429 requires Central Competent Authorities to make publicly available the list of establishments approved and registered in accordance with the Regulation. The list of NIPHAS approved establishments is available at the following link:

[Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme Membership List](#)

- (b) A member may draw attention to their membership of the NIPHAS by advertising, provided that all such advertisements correctly describe their status in the NIPHAS. DAERA reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any advertising material which it considers to be inaccurate.

Section C – Requirements for Granting Approval under the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme

Hatcheries are required to demonstrate compliance with the rules of the NIPHAS (and Regulation 2019/2035) regarding:

Biosecurity	(point 1 of Part 3 of Annex I to Regulation 2019/2035)
Surveillance	(point 2 of Part 3 of Annex I to Regulation 2019/2035) and (Parts I and II to Annex II to Regulation 2019/2035)
Facilities	(point 3 of Part 3 of Annex I to Regulation 2019/2035)
Personnel	(point 4 of Part 3 of Annex I to Regulation 2019/2035)
Supervision by the CA	(point 5 of Part 3 of Annex I to Regulation 2019/2035).
Record keeping	(Article 33 to Regulation 2019/2035)

Farms are required to demonstrate compliance with the rules of the NIPHAS (and Regulation 2019/2035) regarding:

Biosecurity	(point 1 of Part 4 of Annex I to Regulation 2019/2035);
Surveillance	(point 2 of Part 4 of Annex I to Regulation 2019/2035); and
Facilities	(point 3 of Part 4 of Annex I to Regulation 2019/2035)
Record keeping	(Article 22 and Article 25 to Regulation 2019/2035)

1. Biosecurity

Biosecurity is the prevention of disease-causing agents entering or leaving any place where they can pose a risk to farm animals, other animals, humans or the safety and quality of a food product. The same principles apply within the farm, minimising the risk of disease spreading between animals and groups.

A high level of protection against disease must always be maintained in NIPHAS approved establishments, through employment of effective biosecurity measures.

Biosecurity in the Poultry Industry

(1) General Points

- (a) The presence of any large groups of poultry, in intensive conditions, provides a large pool of susceptible birds. It is critical that diligence is exercised when such a unit is present on a farm, especially when the unit is part of a wider mixed farming operation. Game birds, backyard poultry flocks and large populations of wild birds may be particular hazards in relation to the organisms that are tested for under NIPHAS. Poultry are susceptible to several important infections that can be transferred to humans. These include *Salmonella* spp. and *Campylobacter* spp.
- (b) Codes of Practice (as well as DAERA) provide specific advice which covers the importance of:

- (i) Careful cleansing and disinfection of units before stocking and restocking;
- (ii) Effective control of farm pests
- (iii) Separation of the unit from other farm activity;
- (iv) Rigorous hygiene measures when entering and leaving the unit (e.g. separate clothing and footwear);
- (v) The need to ensure that all inputs such as feed, water and bedding are safe.

(2) Codes of Practice and assurance Schemes in the Poultry Industry

- (a) [European rules for Salmonella control](#)
- (b) [Community Guide for good hygiene practices in pullet rearing and egg laying flocks](#)
- (c) [Biosecurity and preventing welfare impacts in poultry and captive birds](#)
- (d) [Code of Practice for the control of Salmonella in Commercial Egg Laying Flocks](#)
- (e) [Code of Practice for the prevention and control of Salmonella in breeding flocks and hatcheries](#)
- (f) [Lion Code of Practice](#)
- (g) [Biosecurity Code for NI Farms](#)

Also, find more information on general [biosecurity and good hygiene](#) advice.

2. Requirements for granting approval of hatcheries

2.1 Biosecurity requirements in hatcheries.

- (a) Hatching eggs of poultry must come either from approved establishments keeping breeding poultry or from other approved hatcheries;
- (b) Eggs must be cleaned and disinfected, between the time of their arrival at the hatchery and the incubation process or at the time of their dispatch unless they have been previously disinfected on the establishment of origin;
- (c) The following must be cleaned and disinfected:
 - (i) the incubators and equipment after hatching;
 - (ii) the packaging materials after each use, unless they are disposable to be destroyed after first use;
- (d) An appropriate system must be in place to ensure the collection of waste water;
- (e) Protective clothing is provided for visitors working;

- (f) Appropriate working clothing and the code of conduct with hygiene rules must be provided to personnel. The hygiene rules must be defined in writing by the management and agreed by the inspecting Veterinarian.

2.2 Surveillance in hatcheries

- (a) The operator must operate a microbiological control programme as outlined in Annex I
- (b) The operator of the hatchery must ensure that arrangements are in place with the operator of the establishment keeping the poultry, where the hatching eggs are originating for sampling to be carried in the hatchery for testing for the disease agents referred to in Annex I, in order to complete that programme.
- (c) All testing required for membership of the Scheme must be carried out at laboratories officially designated (specific pathogens and tests apply) for the purpose of the NIPHAS.

[Link to officially approved laboratories](#)

- (d) The member must pay the cost of all sampling and tests associated with the scheme.

2.3 Facilities and Equipment of hatcheries

- (a) The hatchery must be physically and operationally separate from facilities keeping poultry or any other birds.
- (b) The layout must allow the following operations to be kept separate;
- (i) egg storage and grading;
 - (ii) egg disinfection;
 - (iii) pre-incubation;
 - (iv) incubation for hatching;
 - (v) sexing and vaccination of day-old chicks;
 - (vi) packaging of hatching eggs and day-old chicks for dispatch.
- (b) Buildings must be protected against wild birds and rodents.
- (c) Operations must be based on a one-way circuit for hatching eggs, mobile equipment and personnel.
- (d) Appropriate natural or artificial lighting, air flow and temperature systems must be available
- (e) It must be possible to readily clean and disinfect the floors, walls and all other material or equipment at the hatchery.

- (f) Appropriate equipment must be available for the cleaning and disinfection of facilities, equipment and means of transport used for the day-old chicks and hatching eggs.
- (g) Provision must be made for the hygienic disposal of hatchery waste.
- (h) Buildings and equipment must be kept in good repair.

2.4 Personnel at NIPHAS approved Hatcheries

Any personnel must possess the appropriate ability and knowledge, either via specific training, or through equivalent practical experience in the disinfection and hygiene techniques needed to prevent the spread of infectious poultry diseases.

2.5 Requirements in relation to supervision by a DAERA veterinarian or an aPVP

Official veterinarians must be provided with possibility of use of an office for inspection and/or certification duties. The operator must provide adequate assistance on request for these duties.

2.6 Record keeping obligation of operators of hatcheries

Records must be kept for at least three years and made available on request:

Operators of registered or approved hatcheries shall record the following information:

- (a) the species and number of day-old chicks or hatchlings of other species or hatching eggs kept at the hatchery;
- (b) movements of day-old chicks, hatchlings of other species and hatching eggs into and out of their establishments, stating as appropriate:
 - (i) their place of origin or intended destination, including the unique registration or approval number of the establishment as appropriate;
 - (ii) the dates of such movements;
- (c) the number of incubated eggs which have not hatched and their intended destination, including the unique registration or approval number of the establishment as appropriate;
- (d) hatching yields;
- (e) details of any vaccination programmes;

- (f) records of medicine/vaccination administration (see section D below);
- (g) any laboratory tests with results;
- (h) visitors and deliveries

The owner or agent must notify DAERA of any variation in hatchability or any other sign or laboratory result suggesting the presence of Newcastle disease, avian influenza, the specified Salmonella or Mycoplasma species. Any person suspecting the presence of disease must notify DAERA immediately so a veterinary enquiry can be made by a DAERA Veterinarian. If verification samples are required by DAERA, samples for diagnosis must be submitted without delay to the appropriate approved laboratory.

3. Requirements for granting approval of farms

3.1 Biosecurity requirements on approved farms

- (a) the hatching eggs must be:
 - (i) collected at frequent intervals, at least daily and as soon as possible after laying;
 - (ii) cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible;
 - (iii) placed either in new or in cleaned and disinfected packaging material;
- (b) if an establishment houses poultry species of the orders Galliformes and Anseriformes at the same time, a clear separation must be made between them;
- (c) appropriate sanitary breaks must be taken after the cleaning and disinfecting operations and prior to the arrival of any new flock of poultry in the facilities where poultry is kept. Measures to protect against the introduction of disease must be used and rearing techniques must be based on high biosecurity principles and procedures including, where feasible, the all-in/all-out principle;
- (d) visitors must wear protective clothing and the personnel must wear appropriate working clothing and act in accordance with the hygiene rules drawn up by the operator; Hygiene rules must be defined in writing and agreed by the inspecting veterinarian.
- (e) an appropriate system must be in place to ensure the collection of waste water.

3.2 Surveillance of farms keeping poultry

- (a) Operators must apply and adhere to a disease surveillance programme outlined in Annex I
- (b) Operators of the farm must ensure that arrangements are in place with the operators of the hatchery where the hatching eggs are destined for sampling to be carried in the hatchery for testing for the disease agents referred to in Annex I.

(c) All testing required for membership of the Scheme must be carried out at laboratories officially designated (specific pathogens and tests apply) for the purpose of the NIPHAS.

[Link to officially approved laboratories](#)

(d) The member must pay the cost of all sampling and tests associated with the scheme.

The current testing requirements are laid out in **Annex I** of this handbook. A brief summary is included in the following table:

	Salmonella			Mycoplasma	
	S. Pullorum	S.Gallinarum	S.' arizonae'	M. gallisepticum	M. meleagridis
Turkeys	Required	Required	Required	Required	Required
Fowl	Required	Required		Required	
Ducks	Required	Required			
Pheasants	Required	Required			
Guinea fowl					
Partridges					
Quail					
Geese					
Pigeons					
Ratites					

Depending on the type of poultry being kept on the establishment, their origin, and whether they are present on site at the time of the initial examination, routine testing for certain salmonellas and mycoplasmas may be required.

Surveillance on premises with resident flocks at the time of application

DAERA will advise on any particular need for your flock or the environment of your establishment to undergo additional testing, e.g. when resident birds are present on the premises before approval and following confirmation of any of the diseases covered by the Scheme.

As a general rule, newly approved premises may not export to EU until they have been members of the NIPHAS for at least 6 weeks.

For newly approved premises with resident flocks at the time of approval, this period starts from the date on which a DAERA Veterinarian inspection visit took place with a satisfactory result. Resident flocks must be tested twice for the relevant pathogens, as applicable during the 6-week introductory period. The interval between tests must be between 14 and 42 days. DAERA will issue the letter of membership confirmation once DAERA received the 2nd set of clear test results.

For premises that were inspected and approved whilst free from stock, the 6 weeks introductory period starts at the time of population of the premises if the birds originate from a non approved source. If the birds originate from premises/flocks that have been members

of the NIPHAS for at least 6 weeks, no initial testing of the birds is required. In any other case, the testing must be carried out according to the previous paragraph.

Sampling and testing must be done under the rules of the NIPHAS (See Annex I). For mycoplasma, testing by bacteriology is allowed but not recommended in this case, as it is impractical because negative results can be confirmed only after at least 21 days of culture. Dispatch of eggs to NIPHAS approved hatcheries during this period is allowed however, eggs and day-old birds must only be exported to the EU if the 6 weeks approval period for the hatchery and the flock(s) of origin has elapsed at the time of dispatch for export.

3.3 Facilities on NIPHAS approved farms

- (a) The setting and layout of the facilities must be compatible with the type of production followed, ensuring that the introduction of disease can be prevented and, if it is introduced, enabling it to be controlled. If an establishment houses several species of poultry, there must be a clear separation between them.
- (b) The establishment must only house poultry:
 - (i) from the establishment itself
or
 - (ii) from other approved establishments keeping poultry
or
 - (iii) from approved hatcheries of poultry
or
 - (iv) imported from authorised third countries in accordance with Regulation EU 2020/692
- (c) The poultry must be prevented from coming into contact with rodents and with birds coming from outside.
- (d) The facilities must provide good conditions of hygiene and allow health monitoring to be carried out. It must be possible to readily clean and disinfect the floors, walls and all other material or equipment at the establishment;
- (e) The equipment must be compatible with the type of production pursued and allow effective cleansing and disinfection of the facilities and of vehicles used for transporting poultry and eggs at the most suitable point.
- (f) Buildings, pens, and equipment must be kept in good repair.

3.4 Record keeping obligation of operators of approved farms

Records must be kept for at least three years and made available on request:

Operators of NIPHAS approved farms shall record the following information:

- (a) movement of stock onto and off the premises stating as appropriate;

- i. their place of origin or destination including the unique registration or approval number of the establishment as appropriate;
- ii. the date of such movements

(b) production performance;

(c) morbidity and mortality with causes;

(d) any laboratory tests with results

(e) visitors and deliveries

(f) details of chemical usage

(g) records of medicine/vaccination administration (see section D below)

The owner or agent must notify DAERA of any variation in production or any other sign suggesting the presence of Newcastle disease, avian influenza, the specified Salmonella or Mycoplasma species. Any person suspecting the presence of disease must notify DAERA immediately following disease notification rules so a veterinary enquiry can be made by a DAERA Veterinarian. If necessary, samples for diagnosis must be submitted without delay to the appropriate approved laboratory.

Section D General conditions of the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS)

1. Medicines and Vaccinations

[The Veterinary Medicine Regulations 2013](#) require the following to be kept by farmers:

- (a) The owner or keeper of food-producing animals must keep the documentation relating to the acquisition of all veterinary medicinal products acquired for those animals for five years.
- (b) When a veterinary medicinal product is bought or otherwise acquired for a food-producing animal the keeper must, at the time, record:
 - the name of the product and the batch number
 - the date of acquisition
 - the quantity acquired
 - the name and address of the supplier.
- (c) At the time of administration, the keeper must record:
 - the name of the product
 - the date of administration
 - the quantity administered

- the withdrawal period
 - the identity of the animal(s) treated, e.g. flock code/id.
- (d) If a veterinary surgeon administers a veterinary medicinal product, they must record the above information relating to administration, the batch number and their name in the keeper's records, or provide this information to the keeper in writing and the keeper must then enter it in their records.
- (e) If the keeper disposes of a veterinary medicine other than by treating an animal, they must record:
- the date of disposal
 - the quantity of product involved
 - how and where they disposed of it.

The medicine records described above must be kept for five years. These records can be kept either on paper or as a computerised record. There is no specific format required. If kept on a computer the keeper must supply a printed copy if requested by an inspector.

Vaccinations

Any vaccines used in the flock of origin must have a marketing authorisation issued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) of Defra or equivalent licensing body in another EU member State. The use of vaccines imported under a VMD issued Special Import Certificate (SIC) or, of autogenous vaccines manufactured and used with the approval of VMD, can be considered to have the equivalent of a marketing authorisation in the UK. Records must be maintained of all medicine usage, including vaccines, and must be available for inspection.

Vaccination for *Salmonella* serotypes

- (a) *Salmonella* vaccination programmes must not interfere with serological detection in the context of field investigation, or result in false-positive tests;
- (b) Live *Salmonella* vaccines must not be used in the framework of national control programmes:
- (i) In breeding or productive poultry during their reproductive or laying stage unless the safety of their use has been demonstrated and they are authorised for such purpose
 - (ii) Where the manufacturer does not provide an appropriate method to distinguish bacteriologically wild- type strains of *Salmonella* from vaccine strains.

Further information on veterinary medicines can be found at the [Veterinary Medicines Directorate](#) page.

2. Compliance with other legislation

Membership the NIPHAS does not exempt a member from any requirements to comply with other European Directives/Regulations or with other UK legislation governing the production and marketing of poultry and poultry products.

3. Export certification by aPVP

- (a) Any information shared with a members' private veterinarian must be treated as "Commercial-in-Confidence" by all parties involved;
- (b) Private certification of poultry export consignments may only be carried out by an aPVP approved and appointed by DAERA for export poultry work;
- (c) Members must make their own arrangements for all laboratory samples and tests required under the NIPHAS, and for veterinary inspections, tests etc. required for trade;
- (d) The costs of laboratory tests, export health checks, certification requirements etc. are a matter for the NIPHAS member;
- (e) Before signing an animal health certificate, the official veterinarian is required to carry out various types of documentary, identity and physical checks and examinations in order to verify compliance with the requirements. These requirements are laid out in Part II of the certificate for each category of export to EU member states e.g. hatching eggs, day-old chicks. It is at the member's discretion to arrange and pay for these routine inspections. Appropriate records of such inspections should be held at the establishment.
- (f) NIPHAS membership includes an authorisation under the Data Protection Act for release of information to all those affected by the establishment's health status.

Annex I - NIPHAS Testing Schedules

NIPHAS Members' Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) shall contain a written protocol for all sampling and testing procedures. This should include the name of the veterinarian responsible, test type and laboratory used.

1. Microbiological quality control programme (hatcheries only)

A microbiological quality control programme for purpose of hygienic controls must be laid down in writing and agreed with the inspecting aPVP / DAERA Veterinarian and shall include the following:

- (a) Environmental samples must be collected from the hatchery and undergo a bacteriological examination. Swab samples to conduct aerobic plate counts (or similar tests) would be acceptable for this purpose.
- (b) Samples must be taken at least every six weeks and each sampling must include a minimum of 60 samples.

2. Testing schedule for *Salmonella Pullorum/Gallinarum*

Relevant species: fowl, turkeys, ducks, guinea fowl, partridges, pheasant, quails.

a. *Salmonella Pullorum/Gallinarum* surveillance requirements in the hatchery

Samples shall be collected and examined at least once every 6 weeks. The testing shall include at least:

- one pooled sample meconium/down from chicks from each hatcher;
- and
- a sample of:
 - either 10 second grade chickens and 10 dead-in-shell chickens representing every flock of origin present in a hatcher on the day of sample collection;
 - or
 - 20 second grade chickens representing every flock of origin present in a hatcher on the day of sample collection.

b. *Salmonella Pullorum/Gallinarum* surveillance requirements on the farm

Each flock must be **clinically examined and tested** at least once during each laying or productive period at the best time for detecting the disease in question.

Sampling matrix options:

Samples must be taken from each flock in the establishment keeping poultry, as appropriate:

Species	Time of sampling		Number of birds to be sampled/Number of environmental samples
	Breeding poultry	Productive poultry	
fowl, turkeys, ducks, guinea fowl, partridges, pheasant, quails	At the point of lay	During production at least once a year	See Annex II

- for serological testing: blood samples;
- for bacteriological testing:
 - post mortem tissues, especially liver, spleen, ovary, oviduct and ileo-caecal junction, in particular from those birds that appear sick or that have been identified as highly seropositive;
 - environmental samples (pooled caecal/faecal dropping samples). These can be tested in pools of up to 10 individual droppings.

The disease surveillance programme shall be integrated between farm and hatchery.

The operator of the establishment (farm) must ensure that arrangements are in place with the operator of the hatchery where the hatching eggs are destined for sampling to be carried out in the hatchery for testing.

Serology is the preferred test for on-farm surveillance of **Salmonella** Pullorum and **Salmonella** Gallinarum, but if there are circumstances which interfere with the validity of serological tests, bacteriology may be used.

For newly approved flocks carrying out their initial testing during the 6-week initial period following introduction of the birds, resident flocks must be tested twice for the relevant pathogens, as applicable. The interval between tests must be between 14 and 42 days. Serological testing is preferred.

- Blood samples for serological testing,
- or
- Cull chicks following placement on farm (all available up to a maximum of 60) **and** Faecal pick samples taken 4 weeks before any movement of birds/eggs off the premises (see sampling table below for the number of faeces picks required)

Samples for bacteriological testing must not be taken from poultry or eggs that have been treated with antimicrobial medicinal products during the two to three weeks prior to testing.

3. Processing of samples and testing methods

Samples collected must be subject to:

either

(i) serological testing in the case of birds sampled on farm;

or

(ii) bacteriological testing either as an alternative or in addition to serological testing referred to in point (i); however, samples for bacteriological testing must not be taken from poultry or eggs that have been treated with antimicrobial medicinal products during the two to three weeks prior to testing.

Serological testing techniques must be capable of differentiating serological responses to **Salmonella** Pullorum and **Salmonella** Gallinarum infection from serological responses due to the use of **Salmonella** Enteritidis vaccine, where this vaccine is used. Such vaccination must therefore be avoided if serological monitoring is to be used. In case vaccination is used, testing shall be done using bacteriological methods. The confirmation method used must be capable of differentiating live vaccinal strains from field strains.

Samples collected for bacteriological testing must be processed as follows:

(i) direct enrichment in Selenite-cysteine broth for faecal/meconium and intestinal samples or other appropriate media suitable for direct enrichment of samples where competing flora is expected, followed by plating on a suitable plating agar, such as Brilliant Green Agar (BGA);

Other alternative methods are permitted, but are less suitable for NIPHAS-relevant salmonellae e.g.:

(ii) non-selective pre-enrichment followed by selective enrichment in soya-based Rappaport-Vassiliadis (RVS) broth or Müller- Kauffmann Tetrathionate-Novobiocin broth (MKTTn) for samples (such as embryos dead-in-shell) where competing flora is expected to be minimal;

(iii) direct plating of aseptically collected diseased tissues from infected birds on to a minimally selective agar, such as MacConkey agar;

(iv) Importantly, **Salmonella** Pullorum and **Salmonella** Gallinarum do not readily grow in the modified semi-solid Rappaport Vassiliadis (MSRV) medium that is used for monitoring of zoonotic **Salmonella** spp. in the Salmonella National Control Programme, so this must not be used to detect these organisms (but MSRV is suitable for the detection of **Salmonella arizonae**, see below).

Test type	Additional information
Serology (monitoring only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Serum Agglutination Test • Tube Agglutination Test • Other tests as developed e.g. ELISA, following validation as fit for purpose according to relevant ISO standards
Bacteriology (monitoring and confirmation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture using direct enrichment using Selenite broth/ Brilliant Green Agar test is suitable for all samples • BPW/RVS/BGA test suitable for non-faecally contaminated samples (for example dead-in shells and cull chicks). • BPW-MSRV-based tests (as used for the National Control Program (NCP)) are <u>not</u> suitable for <i>Salmonella Pullorum</i> or <i>Salmonella Gallinarum</i> but will detect the turkey pathogenic O18 <i>arizonae</i> strain.
Molecular tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other tests as developed e.g. PCR, following validation and demonstration as fit for purpose according to relevant ISO 16140 series standards

4. Interpretation of results

A flock is considered positive when, following the positive results of the routine testing performed in accordance with the above, a second test of an appropriate type confirms the infection by the disease agents.

5. General testing requirements

All testing required for membership of the NIPHAS must be carried out at laboratories designated by the competent authority to undertake diagnostic testing for the purpose of the NIPHAS (laboratory designations are on a pathogen- and test-specific basis).

The NIPHAS member must pay the cost of all sampling and testing associated with the NIPHAS. Samples need to be submitted either for serological or bacteriology testing, or for hatchery hygiene control as above.

6. Testing schedule for *Salmonella arizonae*

6.1 Routine surveillance on farm

- Relevant species: turkeys only.
- Frequency/timing: Each flock must be tested at least once a year during the production period – the initial testing being at or near the point of lay.

Species	Time of sampling		Number of birds to be sampled/Number of environmental samples
	Breeding poultry	Productive poultry	
Turkeys	At the point of lay	During production at least once a year	See Annex II

- Samples: bacteriology only. There are no suitable serological tests. Boot swabs taken and tested for the *Salmonella* NCP are suitable for detection of the target *S. arizonae* strain.
- All samples must be tested in a laboratory officially approved by DAERA for *S. arizonae* testing for the purpose of the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme.

6.2 Surveillance at the hatchery

Samples shall be collected and examined at least once every 6 weeks in the hatchery. The testing shall include at least:

- one pooled sample of meconium/down from chicks from each hatcher;

and a sample of:

- either 10 second grade chicks and 10 dead-in-shell chicks representing every flock of origin present in a hatcher on the day of sample collection,

or

- 20 second grade chicks representing every flock of origin present in a hatcher on the day of sample collection.

6.3 Test types available

Test type	Additional information
Serology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No test available
Bacteriology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture • BPW-MSRV-based (as used for NCP) test is suitable for '<i>arizonae</i>', BPW – RVS enrichment or direct Selenite enrichment methods can also be used.

Molecular tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptability to be determined – no suitable validated test currently.
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7. Testing schedule for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*

7.1 Routine monitoring

- Relevant species: fowl, turkeys
- Frequency/timing:

Species	Time of sampling		Number of birds to be sampled.
	Breeding poultry	Productive poultry	
<i>Fowl</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at 16 weeks of age • at the point of lay • and then every 90 days 	During production every 90 days	See Annex II
<i>Turkeys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at 20 weeks of age • at the point of lay • and then every 90 days 	During production every 90 days	See Annex II

- Samples: either bacteriology and/or serology and/or molecular testing
- All samples must be tested in a laboratory officially approved by DAERA for *M. gallisepticum* testing for the purposes of the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS)
- Statistical sampling of each flock, as per table in Annex II.
- Birds should be sampled at random from each part of the flock.
- Surveillance for clinical signs and lesions of mycoplasma infection must be ongoing and each flock must be clinically examined during each laying or productive period at the best time for detecting the disease in question.

7.2 Samples for testing (both for routine monitoring and following suspicion of disease)

As appropriate –

- Serum
- Post mortem tissues, especially air sacs from day-old chicks with lesions;

- Swabs taken from the trachea, the choanae or the cloaca;
- On suspicion of infection, samples should be taken to confirm disease as follows:
 - from flocks, samples as above according to Annex II
 - from day old chicks or poults
 - for examination for airsacculitis
 - samples from carcasses according to veterinary advice and/or discussion of sampling options with DAERA

7.3 Test types available

Test type	Additional information
Serology (monitoring only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Serum Agglutination test • Western blot • ELISA • Haemagglutination inhibition
Bacteriology (for monitoring purposes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swabs from live birds or carcasses; suitable types to include swabs taken from the trachea, the choanae or the cloaca
Bacteriology (for confirmatory purposes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swabs from live birds or swabs or tissues from carcasses, especially air sacs from day-old chicks with lesions
Molecular tests (monitoring and confirmation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swabs from live birds or swabs/ tissues from carcasses , especially air sacs from day-old chicks with lesions

Serological, bacteriological and molecular tests must be carried out using recognised validated methods.

8. Testing schedule for *Mycoplasma meleagridis*

8.1 Routine monitoring

- Relevant species: turkeys
- Frequency/timing:

Species	Time of sampling		Number of birds to be sampled.
	Breeding poultry	Productive poultry	
<i>Turkeys</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at 20 weeks of age • at the point of lay • and then every 90 days 	During production every 90 days	Annex II

- Samples: either bacteriology and/or serology and/or molecular testing
- All samples must be tested in a laboratory officially approved by DAERA for *M. meleagridis* testing for the purposes of the Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS).
- Statistical sampling of each flock, as per table in Annex II
- Birds should be sampled at random from each part of the flock.
- Surveillance for clinical signs and lesions of mycoplasma infection must be ongoing.

8.2 Samples for testing (both for routine monitoring and following suspicion of disease)

As appropriate –

- Serum
- Day old poults - air sac swabs from culls
- Tracheal, choanal, cloacal or air sacs swabs and swabs from reproductive tract (including oviduct, penis and semen of adult birds, as appropriate).
- On suspicion of infection, samples should be taken to confirm disease as follows:
 - from flocks, samples as above according to section Annex II
 - from day old poults for examination for airsacculitis
 - samples from carcasses according to veterinary advice and/or discussion of sampling options with DAERA

Annex II – Number of samples: Statistical sampling

EU Regulations define a flock as meaning all poultry of the same health status kept on the same premises or in the same enclosure and constituting a single epidemiological unit. In housed poultry this will include all birds sharing the same airspace.

Flock size	Number of samples required to provide 95% confidence of detecting 5% within-flock prevalence
1-20	All birds
20-29	20
30-39	25
40-49	30
50-59	35
60-89	40
90-100	50
200-499	55
500+	60

Annex III – Definitions/Glossary

Definitions/Glossary of terms	
For the purpose of the Scheme	
authorised Private Veterinary Practitioner (aPVP)	An Official Veterinarian, working in private practice, authorised as a Certifying Officer (CO) to undertake specific categories of certification and authorised to sign certificates. NIPHAS inspections may only be conducted by aPVPs authorised to carry out poultry certification.
Breeding establishment	Premises producing hatching eggs for the production of breeding or productive poultry.
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Establishment	a facility or part of a facility which occupies a single site and is devoted to one or more of the following activities: (a) breeding establishment (b) rearing establishment (c) hatchery
Flock	all poultry of the same health status kept on the same establishment or in the same enclosure and constituting a single epidemiological unit. In housed poultry this will include all birds sharing the same airspace
Fowl	Birds of the species <i>Gallus gallus</i>
Hatchery	an establishment which incubates and hatches eggs and supplies day-old chicks
NIPHAS	Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme
Official Veterinarian (OV)	a qualified and competent veterinarian, in direct government employment, self-employed or working in practice as an assistant to a practice principal or clinical director, who has been appointed by DAERA (the Competent Authority in Northern Ireland).
Poultry	as defined in Article 4 of Regulation 2016/429: "birds that are reared or kept in captivity for a. the production of i. meat; ii. eggs for consumption; iii. other products; b. restocking supplies of game birds;

	c. the purpose of breeding of birds used for the types of production referred to in points (a) and (b).”
PHS	Poultry Health Scheme
Ratites	includes ostriches, emus, rheas, cassowaries, kiwis and tinamous.
Rearing establishment	(a) either a breeding poultry establishment rearing breeding poultry prior to the reproductive stage; or (b) a productive poultry rearing establishment rearing egg-laying productive poultry prior to the laying stage
Registration fee	a fee payable to DAERA when first joining the NIPHAS or when re-joining after membership has been revoked
Membership fee	the fee payable for annual membership to the NIPHAS
Depopulation	means the destruction, subject to all the necessary health safeguards including disinfection, of all poultry and products at the outbreak site which are infected or suspected of being contaminated
Scheme	Northern Ireland poultry Health Assurance Scheme

Annex IV - Useful Links and contacts

DAERA Direct Regional offices	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/contacts/daera-direct-regional-offices
DAERA-Divisional Veterinary Offices - Export Enquiries	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/daera-divisional-veterinary-offices
Regulation-please ensure viewing latest consolidated version	Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 Regulation (EU) 2016/429 Regulation (EU) 2020/688
Northern Ireland Veterinary Practices listed for aPVP's	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-veterinary-practices-listed-apvps
NIPHAS approved Laboratories	Approved NIPHAS Laboratories
National Control Plan for the control of Salmonella in Poultry (NCP)	UK National Control programme Breeders Layers Broilers Turkeys Fattening Turkeys
Northern Ireland Poultry Health Assurance Scheme (NIPHAS)	NIPHAS
British Veterinary Poultry Association	British Veterinary Poultry Association
British Egg Industry Council (BEIC)	British Egg Industry Council (BEIC)

British Poultry Council (BPC)	British Poultry Council (BPC)
DAERA – Exporting poultry to EU Member States	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/exporting-poultry-eu-member-states
“Form Finder” page containing Export Health Certificates and associated documents for Third Country Exports	https://www.gov.uk/export-health-certificates
PHS	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/poultry-health-scheme-how-to-register
World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)	WOAH
Veterinary Medicine Directorate (VMD)	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Veterinary Medicine Regulations	https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/2033/contents
List of DAERA Approved Disinfectants	Disinfectants approved for use in Northern
UK Accreditation Service (UKAS)	UKAS

Annex V – Testing scenarios for Salmonella Pullorum / Salmonella Gallinarum

SCENARIO	Testing Requirements - Salmonella: all tests must be carried out in a Government approved NIPHAS-listed Laboratory and each test used must be accredited to ISO17025 for the sample matrix used.	Pathogens to test for	Sample types (preferred type in bold)	Test method
1. Newly approved premises with resident flocks at the time of approval,	Resident flocks must be tested twice for the relevant pathogens, as applicable, during the 6 week NIPHAS introductory period. The interval between tests must be between 14 and 42 days.	S. Gallinarum/S. Pullorum (all relevant breeding flock species)	Blood samples (60/flock), or 60 caecal/faecal droppings (tested in pools of ten)	RSA; positives checked with SAT Selenite/BGA culture
		S. arizonae (O18) (turkeys only)	5 pairs of boot swabs as for Salmonella NCP or 60 caecal/faecal droppings (tested in pools of ten)	BPW/MSRV/XLD& second medium with different biochemical indicator Selenite/BGA culture
2. For premises that are inspected and approved whilst no birds are present, the 6 weeks introductory period starts at the time of population of the premises.	If the birds originate from premises/flocks that have been members of the NIPHAS for at least 6 weeks, no initial testing of the birds is required during the 6-week introductory period. In any other case, the testing must be carried out according to requirements for premises with resident flocks, at 1. above	As 1. above for relevant species	As 1. above for relevant species	As 1. above for relevant species

<p>3. Annual flock testing</p>	<p>Relevant species: fowl, turkeys, ducks, guinea fowl, partridges, pheasant, quails. Frequency/timing: each <u>flock</u> must be tested at least once each year during the production period – the initial test being at or near the point of lay. Serology is the preferred test at farm level, but if there are circumstances which interfere with the validity of serological tests, bacteriology may be used.</p>	<p><i>S. Gallinarum/S. Pullorum</i></p>	<p>Blood samples (60/flock), or 60 caecal/faecal droppings (tested in pools of ten) [for confirmation of infection – PM culture of ileo-caecal junction, liver and ovary/oviduct from sick or sero-reactor birds]</p>	<p>RSA; positives checked with SAT Selenite/BGA culture</p>
<p>4. Annual flock testing</p>	<p>Relevant species: turkeys</p>	<p><i>S. arizonae</i> (O18) (turkeys only)</p>	<p>5 pairs of boot swabs as for Salmonella NCP or 60 caecal/faecal droppings (tested in pools of ten)</p>	<p>BPW/MSRV/XLD& second medium with different biochemical indicator Selenite/BGA culture</p>

<p>5. Hatchery Salmonella surveillance sampling</p>	<p>Samples collected and examined at least once every 6 weeks in the hatchery.</p>	<p><i>S. Gallinarum</i>/<i>S. Pullorum</i></p> <p><i>S. arizonae</i> (O18) (turkeys only)</p>	<p>The testing shall include at least:</p> <p>(i) one pooled sample of meconium/down from chicks from each hatcher and</p> <p>(ii) a sample of:</p> <p>— either 10 second grade chicks and 10 dead-in-shell chicks representing every flock of origin present in a hatcher on the day of sample collection, or</p> <p>— 20 second grade chicks representing every flock of origin present in a hatcher on the day of sample collection.</p>	<p>Selenite/BGA culture for <i>S. Gallinarum</i>/<i>S. Pullorum</i></p> <p>Selenite/BGA culture</p> <p>or</p> <p>BPW/MSRV/XLD& second medium with different biochemical indicator for <i>S. arizonae</i> only</p>
<p>6. Hatchery Hygiene monitoring</p>	<p>Samples collected and examined at least once every 6 weeks in the hatchery.</p>	<p>Environmental bacteria levels</p>	<p>Environmental samples must be collected and undergo a bacteriological examination to demonstrate a suitable standard of hatchery hygiene. samples must be taken at least every six weeks and each sampling must include a minimum of 60 samples.</p>	<p>Swab samples to conduct aerobic plate counts (or similar tests) after cleaning and disinfection would be acceptable for this purpose.</p>