collect samples every 30 days after the first sample had been collected. The samples would have to be examined bacteriologically for group D salmonella at an authorized laboratory, and cultures from group D positive samples would have to be serotyped.

As a means of monitoring the salmonella status of the birds in the flock, we would require that blood samples from 300 birds be officially tested with pullorum antigen when the flock is at least 4 months of age. All birds with positive or inconclusive reactions, up to a maximum of 25 birds, would have to be submitted to an authorized laboratory and examined for the presence of group D salmonella according to the procedures described in §§ 147.10 and 147.11 of the regulations. Cultures from group D positive samples would have to be serotyped to determine the antigenic identity of the organism involved. The 300 birds/25 reactors sampling pattern that would be required is the same sampling pattern that has been used effectively in other Plan programs that conduct testing for group D salmonella.

As a means of preventing the transmission of salmonella through hatching eggs, the established procedures that are used in other Plan classifications would be required in the proposed ''U.S. S. Enteritidis Clean'' classification. Specifically, we would require that hatching eggs be collected from the flock as quickly as possible, handled in accordance with the established sanitation procedures described in § 147.22 of the regulations, and sanitized or fumigated in accordance with § 147.25 of the regulations. The hatching eggs would have to be incubated in a hatchery that is in compliance with the recommendations in §§ 147.23 and 147.24(b) and that has been sanitized by fumigation or by a procedure approved by the Official State Agency.

If *Salmonella enteritidis* serotype Enteritidis (SE) was isolated from a specimen taken from a bird in the flock, the flock would not be eligible for the classification.

If SE was isolated from an environmental specimen, a random sample of 25 live birds from the flock would have to be bacteriologically examined for SE using the procedures described in § 147.11 of the regulations. If only one bird from that 25-bird sample was found positive for SE, the participant would be able to request that a second 25-bird sample be bacteriologically examined for SE; if no SE was recovered from any of the specimens in the second sample, the flock would be eligible for the classification.

If SE had been isolated from an environmental sample, we would also require 300 birds from the flock to be blood tested with a pullorum antigen every 30 days, with no positive samples found. This blood testing routine would be necessary to ensure that the SE found in the environment was not due to the presence of SE in the flock.

We are also proposing to require that, in order for a hatchery to sell products of the ''U.S. S. Enteritidis Clean'' classification, all products handled by the hatchery would have to meet the requirements of the classification. The proposed new section would end with a statement indicating that the ''U.S. S. Enteritidis Clean'' classification could be revoked by the Official State Agency if a participant failed to follow recommended corrective measures.

Amendment 6—Mycoplasma Synoviae Clean State, Turkeys

We are proposing to add a new § 145.44(d) to establish a new ''U.S. M. Synoviae Clean State'' classification for turkeys. This proposed new classification would be given to qualifying States in which all turkey flocks have been shown to be free of *Mycoplasma synoviae* and in which no *M. synoviae* has been detected in turkey flocks for at least the previous 12 months.

For a State to qualify for this proposed new classification, all turkey breeding flocks in production in the State would have to qualify as ''U.S. M. Synoviae Clean'' or its equivalent, and all turkey hatcheries within the State would have to handle only products that are classified as ''U.S. M. Synoviae Clean'' or its equivalent. Additionally, all shipments of products from turkey breeding flocks other than those classified as ''U.S. M. Synoviae Clean'' or its equivalent into the State would be prohibited.

All persons performing poultry disease diagnostic services within the State would be required to report to the Official State Agency within 48 hours the source of all turkey specimens that are identified as being infected with *M. synoviae*; such reports would have to be followed by an investigation by the Official State Agency to determine the origin of the infection. Any turkey breeding flock found to be infected with *M. synoviae* would have to be quarantined until marketed under supervision of the Official State Agency.

If a State no longer met any of the above conditions, or if repeated outbreaks of *M. synoviae* occurred in turkey breeding flocks, or if an infection spread from the premises on which it originated, APHIS would have grounds to revoke its determination that the State was entitled to the classification. Such action would not be taken until APHIS had conducted a thorough investigation and the Official State Agency had been given an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the rules of practice adopted by the Administrator of the Service.

Amendment 7—Paperwork

Section 145.52, ''Participation,'' contains statements regarding compliance with the general and specific provisions of the Plan by participating flocks of waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game birds. As a means of reducing the paperwork burden on certain Plan participants, we are proposing to add a provision that would allow waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game bird breeding flock hatcheries to report poultry sales to importing States by using printouts of computerized monthly shipping and receiving reports in lieu of VS Form 9–3, ''Report of Sales of Hatching Eggs, Chicks, and Poults.'' To ensure that a particular flockowner's computerized shipping and receiving reports contained the comparable information to the VS Form 9–3, the use of printouts in lieu of the VS Form 9–3 would be subject to the approval of APHIS and the Official State Agencies in the importing and exporting States.

Amendment 8—Serum Plate Samples

Section 147.6 contains procedures for determining the status of flocks reacting to tests for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *M. synoviae*, and *M. meleagridis*. Section 147.6(b) states that if a laboratory examination or a supplemental serological test for mycoplasma is positive, the flock from which the samples were taken will be considered suspicious and further testing must be conducted using the tube agglutination or the serum plate test. If the tube agglutination test or the serum plate test is positive, the samples must then be subjected to the HI or the SPD test.

When a large percentage of the samples from a flock are positive on the initial tube agglutination or serum plate test, the subsequent HI or SPD testing can be time-consuming and expensive. We are, therefore, proposing to amend § 147.6 to establish a maximum number of positive samples for *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, *M. synoviae*, or both, that would have to be examined using the HI and/or SPD tests. Specifically, when the number of positive samples exceeds 50 percent of the total number of samples