

taken from a flock, we would require that 10 percent of the positive samples or 25 of the positive samples (whichever is greater) be tested using the HI or SPD tests. We believe that testing at least 10 percent of all positive samples from a flock in lieu of testing all the positive samples would reduce the amount of time and money spent by flockowners on HI and SPD testing while ensuring that a sufficient number of samples are tested to accurately determine the *M. gallisepticum* or *M. synoviae* status of a flock.

When this particular proposal was voted upon at the 1994 Plan conference, the delegates of turkey industry elected to remove turkeys from consideration for this particular proposal. Therefore, the proposed amendment discussed above would apply only to egg-type and meat-type chicken flocks and waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game bird flocks.

Amendment 9—Colony Lift Assay

Section 147.11 contains the recommended laboratory procedures for the bacteriological examination of salmonella reactors. Paragraph (a) of § 147.11 contains the procedures that are used for examining reactors from egg-type and meat-type chicken and waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game bird flocks.

When using enrichment culture for examining salmonella reactors, as described in § 147.11(a)(2), it can be difficult to detect group D salmonella on a standard colony pick to triple sugar-iron and lysine-iron agar slants. Therefore, we are proposing to amend § 147.11(a) to allow the use of a colony lift assay as a supplemental screening test to aid in the detection of group D salmonella suspect colonies on selective and nonselective agar culture plates. This proposed change would also entail amending illustration 2 of § 147.11(a), which is a flow diagram that represents the process detailed in § 147.11(a)(2) through (6). The illustration would be amended to indicate that the use of a colony lift assay is allowed and that a participant using a colony lift assay should follow the instructions provided with the assay for confirming positive and negative samples. We believe that allowing the use of a supplemental colony lift assay would make available a valuable tool for detecting the presence of group D salmonella.

Amendment 10—Collecting Samples for Bacteriological Examination

Section 147.12 contains the procedures for collecting environmental samples and cloacal swabs for bacteriological examination under the

Plan's "U.S. S. Enteritidis Monitored" and "U.S. Sanitation Monitored" classifications. We are proposing to amend § 147.12 by modifying those procedures as they apply to egg-type and meat-type chickens and waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game birds. (During the 1992 Plan conference, representatives of the turkey industry elected to remove turkeys from consideration for this particular proposal. Because some of the techniques in the proposed new procedures would not apply to the collection of samples from turkeys, the existing provisions of § 147.12 would be retained for use with turkeys only.)

The proposed new procedures provide more detailed instructions for assembling drag swab sets, impregnating the drag swab sets with double-strength skim milk, sampling floor litter and nest boxes, and sealing, storing, and culturing the used drag swab sets. We believe that these proposed new procedures would help prevent the spread of salmonella in egg-type chicken, meat-type chicken, and waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game bird flocks by decreasing the likelihood of false negatives on flock screening tests and reducing the amount of time required for laboratory diagnoses.

Amendment 11—Bacteriological Examination of Baby Chicks

We are proposing to add a new § 147.17, which would provide a laboratory protocol for the bacteriological examination of baby chicks. The proposed procedure would be recommended as a means of bacteriologically examining cull chicks from egg-type and meat-type chicken flocks and waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game bird flocks for salmonella. The proposed new section would provide detailed instructions for preparing organ, yolk, and intestinal pools, transferring the pools to an enrichment broth, and culturing the pools to detect the presence of salmonella. By adding a protocol for the bacteriological examination of baby chicks, we would provide Plan participants with another means of screening egg-type and meat-type chicken flocks and waterfowl, exhibition poultry, and game bird flocks for salmonella.

Amendment 12—General Conference Committee

Section 147.43 of the regulations contains provisions regarding the composition, duties, and functions of the Plan's General Conference Committee (GCC). We are proposing to amend § 147.43(a) by removing

provisions that make the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Inspection Services a permanent member of the GCC and the elected member-at-large the vice chairperson of the committee. In place of those permanent assignments, the chairperson and vice chairperson of the GCC would be elected by the GCC from among its members. The only permanent seat on the GCC would be that of an APHIS representative who would serve as the committee's executive secretary and would provide the necessary staff support for the GCC.

Miscellaneous

We are also proposing to amend several other sections of the regulations to reflect the proposed changes discussed above or to reflect a change made in a previously published final rule.

We would add two new illustrative designs to § 145.10 to reflect the proposed addition of the "U.S. S. Enteritidis Clean" and "U.S. M. Synoviae Clean State, Turkeys" classifications discussed above. We would also amend two of the illustrative designs already in § 145.10—those for the "U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean State" and "U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean State, Turkeys" classifications—to remove outdated references to the Agricultural Research Service, which formerly administered the provisions of the Plan.

As mentioned above, the regulations in subpart B of 9 CFR part 82 require that no hatching eggs or newly hatched chicks from egg-type chicken breeding flocks may be moved interstate unless they are classified "U.S. Sanitation Monitored" under the Plan or they meet the requirements of an equivalent State classification plan. In a final rule published in the **Federal Register** on March 18, 1994 (59 FR 12795–12805, Docket No. 92–151–2), and effective April 18, 1994, the title of the "U.S. Sanitation Monitored" classification as it applies to egg-type chickens was changed to "U.S. S. Enteritidis Monitored." Two references to that classification are made in part 82, one in the definition of *Certified Salmonella enteritidis serotype enteritidis Tested Free Flocks* in § 82.30 and the other in the text of § 82.34. Those references should have been amended as part of the March 1994 final rule to reflect the name change, but were overlooked.

Section 147.26 contains the procedures for establishing and maintaining sanitation and good management practices for the control of salmonella and mycoplasma infections. Paragraph (a) of that section contains a