



# Temporary Operational Instruction

## Action note: 2026-01-05 – *Campylobacter* spp. Testing in broilers carcasses

### Purpose

This action note is to inform staff of a new temporary operational instruction relating to *Campylobacter* spp. testing in poultry abattoirs.

All poultry slaughterhouses in England and Wales processing broilers on more than ten occasions in ten different weeks within a rolling year must carry out microbiological testing for *Campylobacter* Process Hygiene Criterion (PHC). This TOI provides instructions to ensure that:

- FBOs carry out sampling, testing frequency, recording, and actions on results in line with current operational guidance.
- Official Veterinarians (OVs) record results appropriately.

This operational instruction will remain in effect until permanent instructions are published in the next Manual of Official Controls (MOC) amendment.

## Background

The *Campylobacter* PHC for broiler carcasses came into force on 1 January 2018 under assimilated European legislation on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs [Assimilated Regulation \(EU\) 2073/2005](#).

The adjustment to the current sampling schedule has been introduced following a risk assessment on [Campylobacter risk assessment published in 2023](#). The findings support a revised, proportionate approach to ensure effective monitoring and control in medium and small broiler slaughterhouses.

## Procedure

Based on this, it has been decided that all poultry slaughterhouses in England and Wales processing broilers on more than ten occasions in ten different weeks within a rolling year must carry out microbiological testing on neck skin for *Campylobacter* spp., in accordance with the specifications set out in Assimilated Regulation (EU) 2073/2005, at the following frequencies:

|  | Category | Annual throughput                | Sampling frequency                                    |  |
|--|----------|----------------------------------|---|--|
|  |          |                                  | Initial Frequency                                     | Reduced Frequency if results are <b>satisfactory</b> |
| <b>Campylobacter spp.</b><br>(Broilers only) | 1        | > 7,500,000<br>(>150,000 / week) | 5 samples once a week for 52 weeks                    | 5 samples once every 2 weeks                         |
|  | 2        | < 7,500,000<br>(<150,000 / week) | 5 samples once every 2 weeks for 26 sampling sessions | 5 samples once every 4 weeks                         |

FBOs affected by this change had until **5 January 2026** to implement all necessary measures to comply with this statutory requirement. After this date, proportionate enforcement action will be taken where testing is not carried out at the required frequency.

FBOs will need to update their current standard operating procedures (SOPs) and HACCP-based procedures accordingly to reflect the above.

Slaughterhouses that can demonstrate satisfactory results for the required number of sampling sessions from the date of implementation may automatically benefit from the reduced sampling frequency.

## Front line staff are required to note the following action

Note and action the contents of the action note, ensuring it is read by all front-line staff. In particular, OVVs should:

- Ensure that the Action Note is read by all FSA staff, and this is recorded in the Daybook.
- Discuss the contents of the Action Note with those Food Business Operators (FBOs) processing broilers.
- Where necessary, print a copy for the plant file.

Enter the FBO Campylobacter results into CaPTa (Campylobacter Process Hygiene Criteria Testing Application) at the required frequency. An internal guide on how to enter the data in the system has been produced by the FSA and can be found in the following link [CaPTa User Guidance v1.pdf](#). Distribution

This action note will be:

- uploaded to the [Temporary Operational Instruction Folder held in the MOC area of SharePoint](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)
- logged on the [Temporary Operational Instruction tracker](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)
- published alongside the [MOC chapters on food.gov.uk](#)

The action note will remain live until either incorporated into the MOC or revoked.

Annex

| Action note drafted<br>by and date | Action note agreed<br>by and date | Published and date |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| RDZ 12/12/2025                     | LGM 22/12/2025                    | 05/01/2026         |