

Standard operating procedure: flesh testing after SLICE® treatment

(emamectin benzoate)

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Introduction

The SLICE® Sustainability Project (SSP), launched by MSD Animal Health in 2010, is designed to help the global salmon industry develop sustainable sea lice control programs including SLICE®. SLICE (emamectin benzoate) is a highly effective, medicated feed premix indicated for the treatment and prevention of all parasitic stages of sea lice on salmon.

SSP provides support to salmon producers, utilizes proven management practices and focuses on four core actions — Protect, Conserve, Review and Succeed.

Bioassays to determine sea lice sensitivity, as well as fillet analysis and lice clearance testing are all integral parts of SSP. In the UK, this monitoring service is known as SLICE® Monitor.* Besides helping producers optimize sea lice control, the service provides valuable information for a global database that is being used to track and guide the management of sea lice.

Flesh sampling after SLICE treatment is important since the levels of emamectin benzoate in flesh can be indicative of dosing success; this, together with lice monitoring, enables a scientific determination of SLICE efficacy.

The following are directions for collection of flesh samples for analysis. These are general guidelines applicable in all markets where SLICE

is sold. For additional information on flesh testing and reporting forms, please contact your local MSD Animal Health representative.

Forms and procedure

- ▶ Complete the **Emamectin Analysis Request Form (EARF)**. The form is available from your local MSD Animal Health representative. See Appendix 1 for a sample form.
- ▶ Make sure to **label samples** and that the source, sampling date and identifying number are legible and correspond to the information on the EARF.
- ▶ Forward your completed EARF to the coordinating MSD Animal Health representative. Make a copy to send with your sample and a copy to keep.

Flesh sampling

- ▶ Take samples **24 hours** after the last administration of SLICE. If flesh samples are taken more than 24 hours after treatment, water temperatures and dates must be recorded.
- ▶ Sample apparently **healthy fish**; avoid non-feeders unless they are required for specific sampling programs.

continued

- ▶ Catch **five “normal” fish** at random, e.g., by sweep-net or shallowing cages where possible, and without using feed as a lure.
- ▶ Any runts or “poor-doers” that are sampled should be in addition to the “normal” samples and identified as such on the EARF.
- ▶ Sacrifice fish by an approved, appropriate method.
- ▶ Record the **length and weight** of each fish whenever possible.
- ▶ **Wipe or rinse the surface of the fish** to remove extraneous matter such as feces or feed.
- ▶ **Remove a fillet consisting of skin and muscle in natural proportions from each fish.** A 250-g sample is ideal; if fish are small and this sample size isn’t possible, take the whole fillet from one side. See Figure 1 to ensure proper sampling. Check to make sure the sample is not contaminated with feces or feed, and place in a labeled plastic bag.
- ▶ **FREEZE** each bagged fillet sample as soon as is practicable.
- ▶ **Pack frozen samples** in an insulating box (e.g., polystyrene) and send by overnight delivery to the designated analytical laboratory. Remember to include a copy of the EARF with your samples.

Important note:

Feed sampling and assays to confirm the target emamectin benzoate concentration in feed as well as lice counts before and after SLICE treatment should be conducted whenever possible. Contact your MSD Animal Health representative for resources on these procedures.

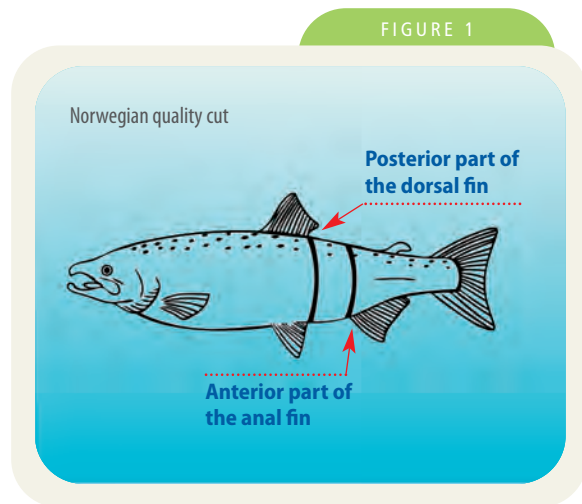


Figure 1. This diagram shows the area where the sample for flesh analysis should be taken 24 hours after SLICE treatment.

Appendix 1 (right). Example of a sample data and authorization form, which should be obtained from your MSD Animal Health representative and returned to that representative when completed. A copy of the completed form must also be submitted with your samples.

*The name of the SLICE Monitor service may differ in markets outside of the UK.



The SLICE®
(parasiticide)
Sustainability
Project

Emamectin Analysis Request Form (EARF): Fish/Feed

DESC 1 — Farm company	
DESC 2 — Farm name and location	
Biomass and number of fish	
Total number of cages on site	
Smolt input date	
Smolt type and source	
SLICE treatment dates (this cycle)	
Feeding regimen and dose (µg/kg/day)	

Feed supplier	
Feed type and size	
SLICE batch number(s)	
SLICE fortification rate	
Feed sample date	
Feed sample point (bag, pipe, etc.)	
Farm feed administration system	
Water temperature	

Fish sample details						
Fish sample date						
Pen numbers						
Sample number						
Fish weight						

Enter other relevant info in the box below:

PO number
MSD authorization number (required for analysis)



[HTTP://AQUA.MERCK-ANIMAL-HEALTH.COM](http://aqua.merck-animal-health.com)

Specific product details such as indications, withdrawal time, etc., may vary by country. Please refer to your local package insert for details or contact your local MSD Animal Health representative.

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