

## **STOMACH-TUBING AND ADMINISTRATION OF ALKALINISING AGENTS**

### **Introduction**

Effective 1 September 2013, amended Rule of Racing AR.64G and new Rule of Racing AR.178AA were introduced to:

- (i) Prohibit the procedure of stomach tubing (nasogastric intubation) within one clear day of racing.
- (ii) Prohibit the administration of alkalinising agents within one clear day of racing.

### **New and amended Rules effective as of 1 September 2013**

#### **A. New definition in AR.1**

“Clear Day” means a 24 hour period from 12.01am to 12 midnight.

#### **B. Amendment to AR.64G**

“**AR.64G.** (1) No person, without the permission of the Stewards, may stomach-tube, attempt to stomach-tube, cause to be stomach-tubed or be a party to the stomach-tubing of a horse which is engaged to be run in:

- (a) a race: at any time on the day of the race prior to the start of that race or during the one Clear Day prior to the day of the race; or
- (b) an official trial or jump-out: at any time on the day of official trial or jump-out prior to the start of that event or during the one Clear Day prior to the day of the official trial or jump-out.

For the purpose of this rule, “stomach-tubed” and variations of that term means any application to a horse of a nasogastric tube.

(2) Any horse that has been stomach-tubed contrary to the provisions of AR.64G(1)(a) or (b) may be prohibited from starting in any relevant race, official trial or jump-out.

(3) Any horse that has been stomach-tubed contrary to the provisions of AR.64G(1)(a) may be disqualified from the relevant race in which it started.”

#### **C. New Rule AR.178AA**

“**AR.178AA.** (1) A person must not administer an alkalinising agent, in any manner, to a horse which is engaged to run in any race, official trial or jump-out:

- (a) at any time on the day of the scheduled race, official trial or jump out and prior to the start of such event; and
- (b) at any time during the one Clear Day prior to 12.01am on the day of the scheduled race, official trial, or jump out.

(2) Any person who:

- (a) administers an alkalinising agent;
- (b) attempts to administer an alkalinising agent;
- (c) causes an alkalinising agent to be administered; and/or
- (d) is a party to the administration of, or an attempt to administer, an alkalinising agent,

contrary to AR.178AA(1) commits an offence and may be penalised.

(3) Where the Stewards are satisfied that a horse has, or is likely to have been, administered any alkalinising agent contrary to AR.178AA(1), the Stewards may prevent the horse from starting in any relevant race, official trial or jump-out.

(4) Where a horse has been administered any alkalinising agent contrary to AR.178AA(1), the horse may be disqualified from any relevant race in which the horse competed.

(5) For the purposes of AR.178AA, 'alkalinising agent':

- (a) means any substance that may elevate the plasma total carbon dioxide (TCO<sub>2</sub>) of a horse when administered by any route;
- (b) includes but is not limited to substances that are bicarbonates, citrates, succinates, acetates, propionates, maleates, lactates and trometamol (THAM, Tris Buffer or Trometamine) and also includes products marketed as urinary alkalinisers and hind gut buffers;
- (c) does not include substances:
  - (i) that are alkalinising agents which are contained in commercial feeds and/or balanced commercial electrolyte supplements which when fed and consumed according to the manufacturers' recommendations for normal daily use have a negligible effect on plasma TCO<sub>2</sub>; and
  - (ii) in respect of which the Stewards have granted an express exemption from the operation of AR.178AA,

provided that any exemption from the definition of alkalinising agent granted under this rule does not constitute a defence to a charge laid against a person following the detection by an Official Racing Laboratory of a TCO<sub>2</sub> concentration in a horse in excess of the threshold prescribed by AR.178C(1)(a).”

## **Explanation of the Rules**

### **The definition of a “Clear Day”**

A “**Clear Day**” is defined within the Rules to mean a 24 hour period from 12:01am to 12 midnight. For practical purposes, a clear day restriction means that the calculation of the number of days for which the procedure/treatment is banned does not take into account the time of day of the treatment.

The restriction on both stomach-tubing and the administration of alkalinising agents is one clear day prior to racing or competing in an official trial or jump-out. This means that if a horse is racing on a Saturday, the last time it may be stomach-tubed or be administered alkalinising agents is 11:59 pm on the Thursday night. In this case, the clear day is the Friday. A clear day is not just the 24 hour period prior to the time of racing.

### **What is considered to be an alkalinising agent?**

For the purposes of **AR.178AA**, an alkalinising agent is any substance that may elevate the plasma TCO<sub>2</sub> of a horse when administered by any route with the exception of balanced, commercial electrolyte supplements which may contain some alkalinising agents but which can be demonstrated to have negligible effects on plasma TCO<sub>2</sub> when administered according to the manufacturers’ recommendations for normal daily use.

AR.178AA prohibits the administration of alkalinising agents by any route within the one clear day of racing, including in feed.

Alkalinising agents that must not be administered within the one clear day prior to racing or competing in an official trial or jump-out include, but are not limited to, bicarbonates, citrates, succinates, acetates, propionates, maleates, lactates and trometamol (THAM, tris buffer or trometamine) and also include products marketed as urinary alkalinisers and hind gut buffers.

Products that contain alkalinising agents and which fall within the definition include proprietary formulations such as: Sodium Bicarbonate (“bicarb”), Baladene®, Lang's Solution® for intravenous use, Neutra-Syrup®, Neutralka®, Neutrolene®, Neutrolene Plus® and Neutradex® and any other products that are marketed as lactic acid buffering or neutralising products. **These products must not be administered within one clear day prior to racing or prior to competing in an official trial or jump-out.**

Balanced electrolyte supplements and potassium supplements that contain electrolytes may be administered or fed in normally recommended amounts within the one clear day. Examples of normal balanced electrolyte products would include such proprietary preparations as Applyte Gel®, Electromix®, Electro Paste®, Electrovite Paste®, Endura-Max®, Endura-Max Paste®, Equicharge®, Horsport®, Humidimix®, KelatoLYTE Electrolyte Replacer®, Ranvet Electrolytes®, Recharge®, Restore® and Vetsense®.

Commercial electrolyte supplements which may contain some alkalinising agents but which should have negligible effects on plasma TCO<sub>2</sub> when administered in feed according to the manufacturers' recommendations for normal daily use include Equilyte®, Race Electrolyte®, and Salkavite®. Examples of commercial balanced intravenous solutions that can be used up to and including the day prior to racing but not pre-race on the day of the race include Darrow's Solution®, Hartmann's Solution® and Lactated Ringers.