

## INDUSTRY NOTICE

### REVISED URINE and NEW PLASMA THRESHOLDS FOR COBALT

Please be aware that:

1. The urine threshold for cobalt will be lowered from 200 micrograms per litre ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) to  $100\mu\text{g/L}$  with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.
2. A plasma threshold of  $25\ \mu\text{g/L}$  will also be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

The lowered urine cobalt threshold and the introduction of a plasma cobalt threshold provide a significantly more sensitive means of detecting the abuse of cobalt in racing.

Therefore trainers are advised:

- That a normal racing diet is more than sufficient to meet a horse's nutritional requirements for cobalt and vitamin B12.
- That registered injectable cobalt supplements offer no nutritional advantages because incorporation of cobalt into the vitamin B12 molecule occurs within the horse's gut.
- To consult with their veterinarians to ensure that their oral supplementation regimen provides only the amount of cobalt necessary to meet the scientifically established nutritional requirements of the horse for cobalt.
- To administer only nutritional supplements that are manufactured or marketed by reputable companies and to administer such supplements only at the manufacturer's recommended dose and frequency of administration.
- To avoid the simultaneous use of multiple supplements containing cobalt and vitamin B12.
- That administering products that are inadequately labelled, that make claims to enhance racing performance or to be 'undetectable', or which are marketed over the internet is extremely unwise.
- To comply with the one clear day restriction on the injection of any substance prior to racing.

**Please direct any queries to your PRA Stewards/Veterinary Department.**