

Seven clear day rule for vaccinations

Summary:

There is no restriction on how close to race day a vaccine may be given to a horse.

Whilst in Queensland, by virtue of QRLR35(3), horses are prohibited from starting in a race, trial or jump-out within seven clear days of Hendra vaccination, no such prohibition occurs for example, in the Northern Rivers region of NSW where a proportion of horses have been vaccinated. Other equine vaccines are also known to produce transient local and systemic reactions following their administration, and a similar prohibition from starting for seven clear days after their administration should be considered.

As a vaccinated horse could present OH&S and integrity concerns, it is undesirable to have horses in competition inside seven clear days of such vaccinations. Consequently, Racing Australia has decided that a seven clear day rule be introduced with an additional provision that vaccinations be included in the horse's treatment record.

1. Add AR.64N as follows:

AR.64N. (1) A trainer must not enter or permit a horse that has been vaccinated against, including but not limited to, equine herpesvirus 1 and 4, equine influenza, Hendra virus, strangles or tetanus, to participate in any race, official trial or jump-out during the seven clear days (as defined in AR.1) following midnight on the day the vaccination was administered.

(2) A trainer must ensure a record of any administration of a vaccine is included in the trainer's record of treatment for such horse in accordance with the requirements of AR.178(F)(1).

(3) Where a horse has been administered a vaccine, or the Stewards reasonably suspect that a horse has been administered a vaccine, during the seven clear days prior to the day of a race, official trial or jump-out, the Stewards may order the withdrawal of the horse from the relevant race, official trial or jump-out.

(4) Any trainer who breaches AR.64N(1) or AR.64N(2) may be penalised.

Note: For the purpose of AR.64N and by way of example, if a horse was subjected to a vaccine administration at any time on a Monday (1st day of month), that horse would be ineligible to race until the Tuesday in the following week (9th day of month)."

Date of Effect: 1 August, 2016