

Notice to Veterinarians and Industry Participants

Stomach-Tubing and Administration of Alkalinising Agents.

Introduction

Recent amendments to the Rules of Racing will impact the way that racehorses can be treated before racing.

Please note that effective 1st September, 2013, amended Rule of Racing AR. 64G and new Rule of Racing AR. 178AA will be implemented that will:

(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.

The purpose of this notice is to explain the changes and to assist trainers and veterinary practitioners in managing compliance with the amended and new Rules.

New and amended Rules effective as of 1st September, 2013.

A. New definition to 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 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 (TCO₂) 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 include 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 TCO₂; 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 TCO₂ concentration in a horse in excess of the threshold prescribed by AR.178C(1)(a)."

The Definition of a Clear Day

A **Clear Day** is defined within the Rule to mean a twenty four hour period from 12:01 a.m. 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 day of treatment nor the day of racing.

For example, the restriction on both stomach-tubing and the administration of alkalinising agents is one clear day. This means that if a horse is racing on a Saturday, the last time it may be stomach-tubed or be administered alkalinizing agents is 11:59 pm on the Thursday. In this case, the Clear Day is the Friday. A clear day is not 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 TCO₂ 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 TCO₂ when administered in feed according to the manufacturer's recommendations for normal daily use.

This rule prohibits the administration of alkalinising agents by any route i.e. inclusion in feed or orally by syringe, not only when administered by stomach-tube.

Alkalinising agents that must not be administered within the one clear day of racing 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 include proprietary formulations such as: Sodium Bicarbonate (“bicarb”), Neutrolene®, Neutrolene Plus®, Neutradex®, Vetsense Neutracid® and any other products that are marketed as lactic acid buffering or neutralising products.

Balanced electrolyte supplements, potassium supplements and commercial feeds that contain electrolytes may be fed in normally recommended amounts. Examples of normal balanced electrolyte products would include such proprietary products as Electromix®, Electrovote®, Equicharge®, Horsport®, Humidimix®, Recharge® and Restore®.