



TEXAS RACING COMMISSION
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May 12, 2017

To: Stewards, Commission Veterinarians, Test Barn Supervisors, Practicing Veterinarians and Horsemen

From: Chuck Trout, Executive Director

Re: Changes to the following documents:

- Permissible Levels of Therapeutic Medications and Naturally Occurring Substances
- Equine Medication Classification Policy and Penalty Guidelines
- Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances

This memo is to provide notice that the above listed documents have been replaced as of this date. The changes include, but are not limited to:

- Changes to the list of Permissible Levels of Therapeutic Medications and Naturally Occurring Substances that **prohibit the stacking of Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)**. Stacking occurs when a post-race sample contains two or more NSAIDs at levels exceeding the permissible levels.
 - Enforcement of the anti-stacking prohibitions in Quarter Horses will begin at the start of the Quarter Horse Meet at Retama Park on June 9, 2017.
 - Enforcement of the anti-stacking prohibitions in Thoroughbreds will begin at the start of the Thoroughbred Meet at Retama Park on September 1, 2017.
- Changes to the Equine Medication Classification Policy and Penalty Guidelines that:
 - address the consequences for violating the NSAID stacking standards;
 - establish enhanced penalties for phenylbutazone overages in excess of 5.0 mcg/ml of serum or plasma;
 - establish separate penalties for dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) overages;
 - direct the stewards to take administrative notice of final, unappealable rulings concerning medication violations in any racing jurisdiction and to consider those rulings in determining whether a positive test is a second or third (or subsequent) offense; and

- provide that possession while participating in a race of an electrical device ("machine") or other device that could influence the outcome of a race shall result in a \$25,000 fine, the revocation of all licenses issued by the Commission, and referral to the executive director for possible further enhancement of the penalty.
- Changes to the Texas Racing Commission Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances made in response to changes made by ARCI to its own Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances.

Please refer to the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTTC) website, www.rmtcnet.com, for information about withdrawal recommendations. Note that suggested withdrawal times are estimates only, based on specific dosages and methods of administration, and are subject to change as research dictates. The trainer remains the absolute insurer that the resulting concentration levels will not exceed the maximum permissible concentration levels.

These documents are subject to further revision at any time.

Test Barn Supervisors - please post this memo and the revised documents in the test barn as soon as possible. Also, please distribute copies of the Permissible Levels of Therapeutic Medications and Naturally Occurring Substances to the practicing veterinarians at your racetrack.

Licensing Staff - please post this memo and the revised documents where they may be viewed by the public as soon as possible.

Copies of these documents will be made available on the Commission's website at <http://www.txrc.texas.gov>.

Attachments: Permissible Levels of Therapeutic Medications and Naturally Occurring Substances
 Equine Medication Classification Policy and Penalty Guidelines
 Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances