



AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF RACING

Amendment No 145 – Issued 19 December 2014

The Australian Racing Board has approved an amendment to the Australian Rules of Racing, effective from 1 January 2015, and the Racing Victoria Board has approved a consequential amendment also effective on 1 January 2015.

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF RACING: COBALT THRESHOLD: AR 178C(1)(I)

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

On 14 April 2014, Racing Victoria introduced a new local rule to set a threshold for cobalt. The Local Rule, in effect, prescribed that cobalt over 200 micrograms per litre in urine is a prohibited substance (LR 68A). At that point, Racing Victoria was the only Principal Racing Authority (for thoroughbred racing) in Australia to have a cobalt threshold.

The Australian Racing Board has now approved a national rule to introduce a threshold for cobalt of 200 micrograms per litre in urine under AR 178C(1)(I). This threshold reflects that prescribed by Racing Victoria's local rule. The new national rule is effective on 1 January 2015.

Given that the national rule will be in place from 1 January 2015, Racing Victoria's local rule will be deleted effective on that same date.

Background to cobalt and information for participants

Cobalt is a naturally occurring trace element which may normally be present in horses at very low levels as a result of the ingestion of feedstuffs that contain it in trace amounts. Cobalt is also present in the structure of vitamin B12 (cyanocobalamin). However, it is known that excessive amounts of cobalt have an effect on the blood system (AR 178B(1)) and that it is a hypoxia inducible factor (HIF)-1 stabiliser (AR 177B(2)(I)) and a haematopoietic agent (AR 178B(2)). Accordingly, it is a prohibited substance pursuant to AR 178B(1), AR 177B(2)(I) and AR 178B(2) when occurring at levels above those naturally occurring or as a result of routine nutritional sources.

A threshold level has been introduced into the Australian Rules of Racing to recognise that cobalt can be present at very low levels when naturally occurring or as a result of routine nutritional sources.

The threshold has been determined following a national survey of the racing horse population which measured cobalt levels in normal racehorses during training and racing.

The threshold has been set at a level to allow for normal levels of cobalt supplementation through routine nutritional sources. However, trainers are advised that the administration, particularly by injection and on multiple occasions, of certain registered vitamin supplements close to racing may result in a level of cobalt in a subsequent sample that exceeds this threshold.

Trainers are therefore advised to avoid the use of these supplements close to racing. Examples of injectable vitamin supplements that contain cobalt and/or vitamin B12 include, but are not limited to, V.A.M. injection, Hemo-15 and Hemoplex.

Amendment effective from 1 January 2015

LR 68A BE DELETED AS FOLLOWS:

~~LR 68A—Cobalt~~

~~In addition to the prohibited substances referred to in AR 178C, Cobalt, when present at or below the concentration of 200 micrograms per litre in urine, is excepted from the provisions of AR 178B.~~

~~[LR 68A added 14/4/14]~~

AR 178C(1)(I) BE ADDED AS FOLLOWS:

AR 178C

- (1) The following prohibited substances when present at or below the concentrations respectively set out are excepted from the provisions of AR 178B and AR 178H:

...

[\(I\) Cobalt at a mass concentration of 200 micrograms per litre in urine.](#)

To view the current version of the Rules of Racing, please visit the following link to the Racing Victoria website: http://www.racingvictoria.net.au/p_Rules_of_Racing.aspx