Racing Integrity Board
New Zealand

RIB Advisory - Control of alkalinising agents information

Issued 9 September 2026

The NZTR and HRNZ Rules of Racing make it an offence to administer, attempt to administer or cause to be administered any substance that meets the definition of an ‘alkalinising agent’ within 'one clear day' of the scheduled race, official trial or jump/work out. This includes administration in the feed.

For the purposes of the rules, an alkalinising agent is any substance that may elevate the plasma TCO2 of a horse when administered by any route. Commercial electrolyte supplements may contain alkalinising agents, but when administered in feed in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations, should not elevate TCO2 levels above regulatory thresholds. The concurrent use of multiple supplements may have cumulative effects and should be avoided.

Alkalinising agents that must not be administered either on the day of the race or 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 and which fall within the definition include proprietary formulations such as: Sodium Bicarbonate (“Bicarb"), Lang’s Solution® for intravenous use, Neutrolene, Neutrolene Plus and Neutradex and any other products that are marketed as Lactic Acid Buffering or neutralising products.



Please note: Products pictured above are only a small selection of the actual products available and advice should be sought for other individual products.

If you have any questions, please contact The Veterinary Services Manager: vet@rib.org.nz or the Stewards/Investigators.
This should not be regarded as a substitute for a comprehensive study of the NZTR/HRNZ Rules of Racing.