



12 December 2025

OFFICIAL NOTICE

AMENDMENT TO HARNES RACING NEW ZEALAND REGULATIONS PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE AND PRACTICES REGULATIONS

On 9 December 2025, the HRNZ Board considered and approved amendments to the Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulation, effective 15 December 2025. Background and details follow.

After initial review by the HRNZ Rules Sub-Committee, and following further consultation and agreement between HRNZ's Veterinary Advisor, the NZ Racing Laboratory Services and HRNZ's Legal Advisor, amendments have been made to the Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulations.

These regulations have been updated to reflect refinement of the threshold limits for prohibited substances in line with international practice as outlined in paragraph 6.

In addition, the age of the horse is now clarified in paragraph 11.3 in line with rule 401 of the Rules of Harness Racing.

These amendments will take effect from 15 December 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Steele", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Brad Steele
Chief Executive

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE AND PRACTICES REGULATIONS

Approved by HRNZ Board effective 11 May 2015

These Regulations made by the Board pursuant to the Rules of Harness Racing shall be referred to as the Prohibited Substance and Practices Regulations.

- 1 The following shall be prohibited substances:
 - 1.1 Substances capable at any time of causing either directly or indirectly an action or effect, or both an action or effect within one or more of the following mammalian body systems:-
 - 1.1.1 the blood system;
 - 1.1.2 the cardiovascular system;
 - 1.1.3 the digestive system;
 - 1.1.4 the endocrine system;
 - 1.1.5 the immune system;
 - 1.1.6 the musculoskeletal system;
 - 1.1.7 the nervous system;
 - 1.1.8 the respiratory system;
 - 1.1.9 the reproductive system;
 - 1.1.10 the urinary system.
 - 1.2 Substances falling within the following categories of substances:-
 - 1.2.1 acidifying agents;
 - 1.2.2 adrenergic blocking agents;
 - 1.2.3 adrenergic stimulants;
 - 1.2.4 agents affecting calcium and bone metabolism;
 - 1.2.5 alcohols;
 - 1.2.6 alkalinising agents;
 - 1.2.7 anabolic agents;
 - 1.2.8 anaesthetic agents;
 - 1.2.9 analgesics;
 - 1.2.10 antiangina agents;
 - 1.2.11 antianxiety agents;
 - 1.2.12 antiarrhythmic agents;
 - 1.2.13 anticholinergic agents;
 - 1.2.14 anticoagulants;
 - 1.2.15 anticonvulsants;
 - 1.2.16 antidepressants;
 - 1.2.17 antiemetics;
 - 1.2.18 antifibrinolytic agents;
 - 1.2.19 antihistamines;
 - 1.2.20 antihypertensive agents;
 - 1.2.21 anti-inflammatory agents;
 - 1.2.22 antinauseants;
 - 1.2.23 antineoplastic agents;
 - 1.2.24 antipsychotic agents;
 - 1.2.25 antipyretics;
 - 1.2.26 antirheumatoid agents;
 - 1.2.27 antispasmodic agents;
 - 1.2.28 antithrombotic agents;
 - 1.2.29 antitussive agents;
 - 1.2.30 blood coagulants;
 - 1.2.31 bronchodilators;
 - 1.2.32 bronchospasm relaxants;
 - 1.2.33 buffering agents;
 - 1.2.34 central nervous system stimulants;
 - 1.2.35 cholinergic agents;
 - 1.2.36 corticosteroids;
 - 1.2.37 cytotoxic agents;
 - 1.2.38 depressants;

- 1.2.39 diuretics;
- 1.2.40 endocrine secretions and their synthetic counterparts;
- 1.2.41 erectile dysfunction agents;
- 1.2.42 fibrinolytic agents;
- 1.2.43 haematopoietic agents;
- 1.2.44 haemostatic agents;
- 1.2.45 hormones (including trophic hormones) and their synthetic counterparts;
- 1.2.46 hypnotics;
- 1.2.47 hypoglycaemic agents;
- 1.2.48 hypolipidaemic agents;
- 1.2.49 immunomodifiers;
- 1.2.50 masking agents;
- 1.2.51 muscle relaxants;
- 1.2.52 narcotic analgesics;
- 1.2.53 neuromuscular agents;
- 1.2.54 oxygen carriers;
- 1.2.55 plasma volume expanders;
- 1.2.56 respiratory stimulants;
- 1.2.57 sedatives;
- 1.2.58 stimulants;
- 1.2.59 sympathomimetic amines;
- 1.2.60 tranquillisers;
- 1.2.61 vasodilators;
- 1.2.62 vasopressor agents;
- 1.2.63 Out of Competition prohibited substances.

2 The metabolites, artefacts, isomers, and analogues of the prohibited substances prescribed in paragraph 1.2 are prohibited substances.

3 The following substances are excluded from paragraphs 1 and 2.

- 3.1 antimicrobials (antibiotics) and other anti-infective agents with the exception of procaine penicillin;
- 3.2 antiparasitics that are ACVM registered for use in horses;
- 3.3 ACVM registered oral altrenogest when administered to mares and fillies;
- 3.4 ambroxol;
- 3.5 bromhexine;
- 3.6 chondroitin sulphate;
- 3.7 demborexine;
- 3.8 glucosamine;
- 3.9 hyaluronic acid;
- 3.10 licensed vaccines against infectious agents that are ACVM registered for use in horses;
- 3.11 ACVM registered oral omeprazole;
- 3.12 polysulphated glycosaminoglycan;
- 3.13 pentosan polysulphate;
- 3.14 ranitidine.

4 The following substances are excluded from paragraph 1 and 2 when present below the following thresholds:-

- 4.1 Alkalinising agents, when evidenced by total carbon dioxide (TCO₂) at a concentration of 36.0 millimoles per litre in plasma.
- 4.2 Arsenic at a mass concentration of:
 - 4.2.1 0.30 milligrams of total arsenic per litre in urine.
 - 4.2.2 0.015 milligrams of total arsenic per litre in plasma.

- 4.3 Boldenone in urine of male horses other than geldings (including free boldenone and boldenone liberated from its conjugates) at a mass concentration of 15.0 micrograms per litre of urine.
 - 4.4 Cobalt at a concentration of:
 - 4.4.1 100 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 4.4.2 25.0 micrograms per litre in plasma.
 - 4.5 Dimethyl sulphoxide at a mass concentration of;
 - 4.5.1 15 milligrams per litre in urine.
 - 4.5.2 1.0 milligrams per litre in plasma.
 - 4.6 5 α -estrane-3 β ,17 α -diol in (including both the free substance and that liberated from its conjugates) in male horses other than geldings at a mass concentration:
 - 4.6.1 of 45.0 micrograms per litre of urine; or
 - 4.6.2 at a mass concentration less than that of 5(10)-estrane-3 β ,17 α -diol in urine (including both the free substance and that liberated from its conjugates).
 - 4.7 Hydrocortisone at a mass concentration of 1.00 milligrams per litre in urine.
 - 4.8 3-methoxytyramine (including free 3-methoxytyramine and 3-methoxytyramine liberated from its conjugates) at a mass concentration of 4.0 milligrams per litre of urine;
 - 4.9 Salicylic acid at a mass concentration of:
 - 4.9.1 750 milligrams per litre in urine.
 - 4.9.2 6.5 milligrams per litre in plasma.
 - 4.10 Testosterone- (including both free testosterone and testosterone liberated from its conjugates):
 - 4.10.1 In geldings at a mass concentration of
 - 4.10.1.1 20.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 4.10.1.2 0.1 micrograms per litre of plasma.
 - 4.10.2 In fillies and mares not notified as pregnant at a mass concentration of:
 - 4.10.2.1 55.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 4.10.2.2 0.1 micrograms per litre of plasma.
 - 4.10.3 At any concentration in fillies and mares that have been notified as pregnant.
 - 4.11 Theobromine at a mass concentration of 2.0 milligrams per litre in urine.
- 5 The following therapeutic substances are excluded from paragraph 1 and 2 when present below the following thresholds (including both the free substance and that substance liberated from any conjugates):
- 5.1 Diclofenac at a mass concentration of 50.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 5.2 Flunixin at a mass concentration of:
 - 5.2.1 100.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 5.2.2 1.0 micrograms per litre of plasma.
 - 5.3 Ketoprofen at a mass concentration of 100.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 5.4 Meloxicam at a mass concentration of:

- 5.4.1 10.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 5.4.2 1.0 micrograms per litre of plasma.
 - 5.5 Naproxen at a mass concentration of 250.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 5.6 Phenylbutazone at a mass concentration of:
 - 5.6.1 100.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 5.6.2 100.0 micrograms per litre of plasma.
 - 5.7 Carprofen at a mass concentration of 100.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
 - 5.8 Furosemide at a mass concentration of 50.0 micrograms per litre in urine.
6. Each threshold set out in paragraph 4 and 5, including those for the same substance in urine and plasma, can be applied independently. No determination or consideration of specific gravity of a horse urine sample should be made when comparing the concentration of a substance with a urinary threshold or limit.
7. The following shall be Out of Competition Prohibited Substances:
- 7.1 any substance for which there is no generally accepted equine veterinary therapeutic purpose;
 - 7.2 any substance defined as a controlled drug by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975;
 - 7.3 agents modifying myostatin function, including but not limited to myostatin inhibitors;
 - 7.4 agents that directly or indirectly affect or manipulate gene expression;
 - 7.5 allosteric effectors of haemoglobin, including but not limited to ITPP (myo-inositoltrispyrophosphate);
 - 7.6 AMPK activators, including but not limited to AICAR (5-amino-1-β-D-ribofuranosyl-imidazole-4-carboxamide);
 - 7.7 anabolic androgenic steroids (other than an anabolic androgenic steroid which is present at or below the relevant concentrations set out in paragraphs 4.3, 4.6 and 4.10);
 - 7.8 aromatase inhibitors;
 - 7.9 beta-2 agonists, unless the substance is prescribed by a veterinarian as a bronchodilator and administered at the dose rate and frequency prescribed;
 - 7.10 cannabinoids;
 - 7.11 endorphins;
 - 7.12 erythropoiesis-stimulating agents, including but not limited to erythropoietin (EPO), epoetin alfa, epoetin beta, darbepoetin alfa, and methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta (*Mircera*);
 - 7.13 growth hormones and growth hormone releasing factors;
 - 7.14 hypoxia-inducible factor HIF activators, including but not limited to argon and xenon;

- 7.15 hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) stabilisers, including but not limited to cobalt and FG-4592;
 - 7.16 insulin-like growth factor-1 (IGF-1) and other growth factors;
 - 7.17 insulins;
 - 7.18 oxygen carriers including but not limited to perfluorochemicals, eflaproxiral, and modified haemoglobin products;
 - 7.19 peroxisome proliferator activated receptor δ (PPAR δ) agonists, including but not limited to GW 1516;
 - 7.20 selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMS);
 - 7.21 selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMS) and other anti-estrogenic substances;
 - 7.22 selective opiate receptor modulators (SORMS);
 - 7.23 synthetic proteins and peptides and synthetic analogues of endogenous proteins and peptides not registered for medical or veterinary use;
 - 7.24 thymosin beta;
 - 7.25 venoms of any species or derivatives thereof.
8. The metabolites, artefacts, isomers and analogues of the prohibited substances prescribed in paragraph 7 are Out of Competition Prohibited Substances.
9. The following substances when prescribed by a veterinarian and used for therapeutic use and their metabolites and artefacts, are excluded from paragraph 7:
- 9.1 butorphanol;
 - 9.2 codiene;
 - 9.3 3-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-4-hydroxyindole;
 - 9.4 N,N-dimethyltryptamine;
 - 9.5 fentanyl
 - 9.6 ketamine;
 - 9.7 methadone;
 - 9.8 morphine;
 - 9.9 pethidine;
 - 9.10 pholcodine;
 - 9.11 platelet rich plasma (PRP) and interleukin 1 receptor antagonist protein (IRAP);
 - 9.12 secoborbital.
10. The following substances and their metabolites and artefacts are excluded from paragraphs 1 and 8 when present in urine or plasma as a result of normal feeding:
- 10.1 Bufotenine.
 - 10.2 Hordenine.
11. In these regulations:-
- 11.1 ACVM registered means any veterinary medicine registered under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 (or Act that replaces the Act) for use in horses.
 - 11.2 Total carbon dioxide (TCO₂) means the total carbon dioxide released upon sample acidification as measured by either ion-selective electrode or head-space gas chromatography/mass spectrometry.

11.3 The age of horse shall be determined under rule 401 of the rules of harness racing which provides:

401 (1) The age of every horse foaled on or after 1 January and before 1 August in a calendar year shall become a one-year-old on 1 January in the next calendar year in which it is foaled.

(2) The age of every horse foaled on or after 1 August in a calendar year and before 1 January in the next shall become a one-year-old on 1 January in the next but one calendar year in which it is foaled.

(3) After a horse has become a one-year-old it shall age one year on the 1st January in each year thereafter.