

ANNEX VIII FOOD CONTAMINANTS

Warning to all riders and horse owners

Stable management and feeding practices can have important consequences for testing of horses during competition. Occasionally, horses test positive for substances which can be administered, but have also been reported as a result of stable or feed contamination. Examples are:

1. Feed contamination Caffeine/Theobromine: Prohibited Substances can be ingested via manufactured feed. Several feed producers have been approached during the legal follow-up of these cases and in some instances the contamination could be traced back to certain batches of feed. However, feed contamination does not diminish the responsibility of the rider for the test result. In addition, if a horse is to be disqualified due to a positive analysis, it is of little help if afterwards it becomes clear that feed contamination was the cause. It is therefore strongly advised to check with the feed manufacturer or supplier whether the feed is routinely controlled for the presence of Prohibited Substances. If competition horses are stabled adjacent to horses receiving uncontrolled feed, a risk for medication control may be the result. Moreover, it is recommended that small samples of different batches of feed are kept in clean plastic bags or glass jars. By storing the feed samples and identifying date and batch number with a marker, it is possible to check the feed retrospectively if a horse subsequently tests positive.

2. Isoxsuprine: This substance, also known under a number of the brand names including Duviculine, Vascuprin and Navilox, has been used in the treatment of navicular disease and laminitis. However, it is a Prohibited Substance under the FEI Regulations and must therefore not be present in a horse's biological samples at the time of competition. Isoxsuprine is often mixed with feed and sticks very easily to stable walls, feed bins, bedding, etc. After prolonged use in horses isoxsuprine is detectable in the urine for an extended period. If a horse is receiving isoxsuprine treatment, it should be separated from other horses, especially if competition horses are stabled adjacently. The horse under treatment should be fed last and should have its own feed bucket. It is strongly advised that the person administering isoxsuprine does not spread the substance to other boxes (e.g. via footwear, coveralls, buckets, hands etc.), as this can easily result in untreated horses testing positive.

3. Methylxanthines (including Caffeine, Theobromine and Theophylline)

Caffeine positives can be caused by intentional administration, but are also often the result of feed contamination. The FEI Bureau has decided that the resources required to process caffeine cases are not proportional to its perceived threat to the sport, and systematic prosecution of such cases is not always appropriate given the circumstances. The Bureau has therefore decided to put caffeine on a 'monitoring' list and will not currently perform a judicial follow up of positive test results for caffeine and the related substances theophylline and theobromine. However, the FEI Central/Reference Laboratories will continue to report positives to the FEI and their estimated concentrations will be recorded. If unusually high concentrations are found, an investigation will be undertaken and the results reported to the Tribunal.