AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING:

Cobalt thresholds for plasma and urine Summary: Racing Australia has resolved to lower the cobalt threshold in urine from 200 micro grams per litre of urine (µg/L) to100 µg/L in line with all other major international jurisdictions. In addition, Racing Australia will introduce a cobalt plasma threshold for the first time of 25 µg/L. Plasma sampling is a more effective detection of cobalt as plasma cobalt levels remain elevated longer than urine levels after high doses. Effective as from September 1st, 2016

INDUSTRY NOTICE REVISED URINE and NEW PLASMA THRESHOLDS FOR COBALT
Please be aware that: 1. The urine threshold for cobalt will be lowered from 200 micrograms per litre (µg/L) to 100µg/L with effect from 1st September 2016. 2. A plasma threshold of 25 µg/L will also be implemented from 1st September 2016. The lowered urine cobalt threshold and the introduction of a plasma cobalt threshold provide a significantly more sensitive means of detecting the abuse of cobalt in racing. Therefore trainers are advised: • That a normal racing diet is more than sufficient to meet a horse's nutritional requirements for cobalt and vitamin B12. • That registered injectable cobalt supplements offer no nutritional advantages because incorporation of cobalt into the vitamin B12 molecule occurs within the horse's gut. • To consult with their veterinarians to ensure that their oral supplementation regimen provides only the amount of cobalt necessary to meet the scientifically established nutritional requirements of the horse for cobalt. • To administer only nutritional supplements that are manufactured or marketed by reputable companies and to administer such supplements only at the manufacturer's recommended dose and frequency of administration. • To avoid the simultaneous use of multiple supplements containing cobalt and vitamin B12. • That administering products that are inadequately labelled, that make claims to enhance racing performance or to be 'undetectable', or which are marketed over the internet is extremely unwise. • To comply with the one clear day restriction on the injection of any substance prior to racing.

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Seven clear day rule for vaccinations Summary:

There is no restriction on how close to race day a vaccine may be given to a horse. Whilst in Queensland, by virtue of QRLR35(3), horses are prohibited from starting in a race, trial or jump-out within seven clear days of Hendra vaccination, no such prohibition occurs for example, in the Northern Rivers region of NSW where a proportion of horses have been vaccinated. Other equine vaccines are also known to produce transient local and systemic reactions following their administration, and a similar prohibition from starting for seven clear days after their administration should be considered. As a vaccinated horse could present OH&S and integrity concerns, it is undesirable to have horses in competition inside seven clear days of such vaccinations. Consequently, Racing Australia has decided that a seven clear day rule be introduced with an additional provision that vaccinations be included in the horse's treatment record. 1. Add AR.64N as follows: "AR.64N. (1) A trainer must not enter or permit a horse that has been vaccinated against, including but not limited to, equine herpesvirus 1 and 4, equine influenza, Hendra virus, strangles or tetanus, to participate in any race, official trial or jump-out during the seven clear days (as defined in AR.1) following midnight on the day the vaccination was administered. (2) A trainer must ensure a record of any administration of a vaccine is included in the trainer's record of treatment for such horse in accordance with the requirements of AR.178(F)(1). (3) Where a horse has been administered a vaccine, or the Stewards reasonably suspect that a horse has been administered a vaccine, during the seven clear days prior to the day of a race, official trial or jump-out, the Stewards may order the withdrawal of the horse from the relevant race, official trial or jump-out. Date of Effect: 1 August, 2016