

EA National Medication Control System



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Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

1. EA Medication Control Policy

Horses ridden or driven in EA competition must not compete under the influence of prohibited medications. The FEI defines what a prohibited substance is in the FEI veterinary regulations. EA agrees and uses the same definition. The EA Medication Control By-Law describes requirements for the drug testing of athletes (riders) and horses and ponies.

Medication control sampling (swabbing) is compulsory at the following events/occasions:

- All FEI events (refer FEI Rules and Regulations)
- All National Championships or equivalent (at least three horses or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater)
- All State Championships or equivalent (at least three horses or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater)
- Upon any horse that dies/ has to be euthanised at an EA National Championship Competition
- For all classes with prize money totaling more than \$2,000 or with a first prize of \$1,000 or more (at least one horse or three percent of horses taking part, whichever is the greater.).

Medication control sampling (swabbing) is recommended/permitted at the following events:

- At all selection or qualifying event for Championships or Finals
- At least once a year at official events that are run regularly and more than six times a year
- At any EA event or competition that holds "graded" competition
- At any EA affiliated club/body that holds "graded" competition
- At any EA Official Measuring Day
- Or at any other EA/FEI sanctioned/affiliated/sponsored event

2. Event Planning Summary

Organisers of events at which medication control/sampling of horses is to take place, must in consultation with the EA Branch Medication Control Officer (BMCO), plan the following:

1. The presence at the event of appropriately qualified personnel, including a Veterinarian and a EA/FEI Swabbing Steward
2. Access to a "swabbing box" or similar facility in which samples can be collected at the event
3. Availability of an adequate number of sample collection kits and equipment. These kits are available from Beehive Industries, please contact your BMCO for contact details.
4. The method of selection of horses, unless left to the Ground Jury of the day. The Swabbing Steward should not be involved in the selection of horses for drug testing
5. Financial budgeting for the required sampling

3. Qualified Personnel

The EA Branch Offices and the EA National Medication Control Officer maintains a list of members that have experience as Swabbing Stewards and a list of experienced veterinarians. As from 01 January 2005, the EA Steward in charge of drug testing of horses must be accredited for this function under the EA National Officiating Accreditation Scheme (NOAS).

4. Supply of Sample Collection Kits

Sample Collection kits will need to be ordered from Beehive Industries.

Upon arrival the kit(s) should be checked to ensure that the expiry dates are current. The ID number must also be checked. It is the duty of the person ordering the kit(s) (BMCO, Veterinary Surgeon or the EA Steward) to bring the kit(s) to the event.

Sample kits come in a security bag, which has a tamper evident seal at the end of the zipper. The security bag has been sealed with a uniquely numbered tamper evident seal. The seal is ONLY broken and the bag opened IMMEDIATELY prior to the collection of samples AT THE COMPETITION. The opening of the bag must occur in the presence of the sample collection officials (usually the veterinarian and the EA Swabbing Steward) overseeing the collection of samples and the Person Responsible. All kits, whether used or unused, must be returned to the laboratory.

Some laboratories also supply (usually on request) large disposable plastic cups and a holder with a handle for the collection of urine. The use of these is not mandatory, but a washed purpose built urine catching receptacle is required.

5. On-site Facilities

It is preferable to have a separate stable dedicated to the collection of samples. This "swabbing box" should be in a quiet and private area, be clean and have a supply of fresh straw/sawdust in it. There should be chairs for Person Responsible, veterinarian and steward(s) and a table on which the sampling kits can be processed.

In the absence of such facility, the sampling can be done in other areas, preferable in an area with which the person responsible and sampling personnel are comfortable. This area must be isolated and quiet, and safe for the horse and handlers.

6. The Selection of Horses to be sampled

Normally, as the analysis of samples is expensive, the organising committee determines the number of samples that are to be taken. However both the EA and FEI have a policy regarding the number of horses that must be sampled.

The EA maintains a Medication Control Program (MCP)/Swabbing Program that ensures that drug testing (swabbing) is carried out during official competition in conformance with requirements listed below.

There are many methods for selecting horses to be swabbed at EA events and competitions. Only horses where the Person Responsible is an EA member can be selected for swabbing. This includes Senior and Junior members in any official/graded competition. Where Medication control takes place in Associate/unofficial competition, Associate members may also be included.

The Ground Jury may delegate the responsibility to the veterinarian to decide upon the method of selection. The selection processes available to the Ground Jury/Event Organising Committee include any of the following:

1. Horses may be chosen specifically because their behaviour raises suspicion, in other words, they appear drugged or under the effect of medication (deemed a Ground Jury "spot test")
2. Horses may be chosen at random from all competitors entered, or chosen at random from a group of winners or placegetters (deemed a random selection)
3. Horses may be chosen because they are winners or placegetters (deemed a "required selection", e.g. at certain FEI Events)
4. Horses may be chosen because they have been withdrawn or scratched (deemed a Ground Jury "spot test")
5. Horses may be chosen because of poor performance (deemed a Ground Jury "spot test")
6. Horses may be chosen at a judge's request (deemed a Ground Jury "spot test")

7. The Ground Jury may delegate the responsibility to the Veterinarian, the Chief Steward (not the Swabbing Steward) or another senior member of the Organising Committee to decide upon the method of selection or select the horse(s)

Once the Ground Jury/Event Organising Committee have selected the required number of horses for swabbing, a ground jury member/event organising committee member must sign the EA Medication Control Notification form(s) that will be used for the notification of the person(s) responsible

7. Reporting of Results

The reporting of the sample results will only be made to CEO of the EA National Body for non-FEI events. Reporting of sample results for FEI events is directly to the FEI.

OCs, BMCO and Sampling Officials are only informed of the sample results at the discretion of the National EA Board. This would not usually occur until after a judicial enquiry (if needed) or after the Person Responsible has been informed.

8. List of EA and FEI Reference and Associate Laboratories

These are the EA/FEI Approved Laboratories within Australia:

NSW: Australian Racing Forensics Laboratory
(REFERENCE LABORATORY)
Level 11, 51 Druitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Ph: 02 8344 5000

9. Other Contact Details

EA Medication Control Officer
Denis Goulding
Email: dgvvet1@me.com

EA National Office
Postal address:
PO Box 673 Sydney Markets NSW 2129
Physical address:
Unit 7, 11-21 Underwood Rd Homebush NSW 2140
Ph: (02) 8762 7777
Email: info@equestrian.org.au
Web: www.equestrian.org.au

10. Notification and Supervision

The Swabbing Steward or a trained assistant seeks out the selected rider/horse combinations without significantly interfering with their competition or preparation. Horses may be sampled at any time during competition. Horses may be sampled more than once.

In practice it is best that the riders/drivers/handlers (person's responsible) are notified and swabbed immediately after they have finished competing or have taken part in the presentation of prizes or within 30 minutes of the announcement of the competition results. Persons Responsible may be notified up to 30 minutes after the finish of competition.

The handler/rider or owner or their designated representative (hereafter termed the Person Responsible or PR) must stay with the horse from the point of notification until the sampling procedure is completed. When the PR is not an adult (18 years old or over), they must be accompanied by a guardian.

The EA steward must notify the PR formally by handing PR the completed and signed EA/FEI Horse Drug Testing Notification form. The PR MUST complete and sign the EA/FEI Horse Drug Testing Notification form.

The horse must then be accompanied by the EA steward at all times after notification. The Swabbing Steward should supervise the selected horse from the moment the PR is notified and until the swabbing process has been completed. The horse must not be allowed to eat or be administered any medication, until after sampling is complete. The horse may be hosed down, may have its tack removed and may be presented quickly for photographs before making its way to the sampling box/area. However, after notification the PR must present the horse at the swabbing area as soon as possible for sample collection.

A refusal or wilful obstruction by any person to submit a horse for sampling must be reported immediately to the Ground Jury/Event Organising Committee. If the Jury/Committee decides there are no grounds for such a refusal or obstruction, and the Person Responsible persists, the horse must be disqualified from the entire event. The matter must be reported in writing to the National Anti-Doping Control Officer.

Once at the swab box/area, the identity of the horse should be confirmed in the best way possible. The veterinarian must identify the horse against its EA/FEI or relevant breed registration papers or if they are absent, write a description on the forms provided.

11. The Sampling Process

The veterinarian/steward must open the swab kits in the presence of the PR, conduct the wash-through procedure and sample the horse, waiting for urination for no more than one (1) hour. Detailed procedures for the use of sampling kits may vary from kit to kit, lab to lab. Please consult the appropriate laboratory resource material provided with the sample kits.

The length of wait for urine must not exceed 1 hour, but may be shortened if the sampling officials are of the opinion that an expedited collection of urine is not probable. If the horse becomes dangerous then the sampling procedure may be curtailed or abandoned by the approval of the sampling officials.

12. EA Swabbing Stewards Personal Kit

All EA Swabbing Stewards should obtain a personal kit, which should contain the following:

- Identity badge
- Swabbing sample kit(s)
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Collection pan/urine collector
- File/notebook
- Pens
- Plastic Gloves
- Sunscreen lotion
- Sun hat or cap
- Swabbing Procedures
- Spare coded seals to close the sample kit
- Where available, the Laboratory's Sample Collection Procedures Booklet (It is advisable to read this booklet thoroughly and carry it with you on swabbing days.)
- EA Notification Forms
- Blank Horse Identification Forms
- Express Post Envelopes for Post Sampling paperwork to be returned to the National Office
- Express Post secure bags for the posting of samples to the laboratory (if needed)

Upon arrival at grounds, check that the following are available:

- Swabbing Area/Stable is available/clean/ready
- Competitor List/Event program (the ground jury/event organiser, must supply the swabbing team with an event program and competitor listing upon request)
- The Swabbing Steward, a member of the ground jury or event coordinator and veterinarian must meet to discuss procedures for the day

13. After Sampling Completion

- As soon as possible after a sample is taken and sealed, it needs to be kept chilled or frozen in a suitable secure (locked) cooler container or refrigerator. This is to ensure the biological integrity of the sample
- Used and unused sample kits are to remain in the custody of the EA sampling steward or the BMCO
- Arrangements for delivery/sending of the samples on the first working day after the competition/event are essential
- When swabbing samples are sent from a distance, then they should be express registered posted or courier freighted back to the approved laboratory

14. Risk Management Measures

To ensure that PR is confident that the correct processes have been followed and need not be challenged, the following measures should be observed:

- The Swabbing Steward should not be involved in the selection of horse to be swabbed
- The PR must have a clear view of all procedures and be given an explanation about each step of the process
- Only a Veterinarian is to take blood; either the veterinary surgeon or the Swabbing Stewards may take the urine samples
- Stewards should be well versed with regulations, procedures and equipment required
- The Swabbing Steward is ultimately responsible for the swabbing conducted, and will be scrutinised more than the competitor
- Identification of the horse should be through a suitable I.D. like an EA/FEI passport or the horse's registration papers
- Stewards need to be consistent with their procedures
- The Swabbing Steward should ensure the veterinary surgeon has disposed of sharps into a sharps container
- Security for the completed kits/chain of custody