

Guidelines for Classification of Prohibited Substances

Classification of Prohibited Substances

Preamble

This classification document is intended as a guideline only to assist in understanding the severity and implications of alleged drug offences and to serve as a guide in respect of the associated penalty. It is however important to stress that other aspects can also contribute to the severity of the offence and the associated penalty. These include the route of administration of the drug preparation, illegal sourcing of this preparation, the intent to manipulate the race result, risk to the rider, the welfare of the horse, a prohibited practice which could be involved, evidence that the substance(s) may have been used improperly and previous offences. During such investigation there may be an investigation into aspects surrounding the administration of a drug to the horse as well as the veterinary and pharmacological aspects of the finding. It is important to note that for a particular substance, different findings may present very different facts and aspects to consider. There may also be mitigating circumstances which must be investigated and considered. These could affect the outcome of the inquiry and the penalty, irrespective of the particular substance and the associated classification.

This list provides for a range of substances commonly administered to racehorses. Included are locally registered veterinary preparations and local human preparations which registered veterinarians may use as an off-label application when deemed necessary. Note that the practice of off-label use of locally registered human preparations in the veterinary (equine) field is legal and is in contrast with the illegal use of preparations which are not locally registered or licensed. Any substance not included in this list which forms part of a local registered preparation, will be classified according to its drug grouping. Drugs which are illegally sourced, which would have a pronounced effect on the horse and which are clearly not intended for use in the horse are placed in higher classes, particularly if they might affect the performance of the horse and the outcome of a race. Such findings may be forwarded to the relevant authority(s) for further investigation. Substances or drugs not included in this list which are not registered for use in this country, will be considered a Class 1 violation unless information is presented justifying reclassification.

The ranking of the substances within the indicated classes is based on aspects such as their pharmacological effect, their considered ability to influence the outcome of a race and whether or not they have a legitimate therapeutic use in the racehorse. Drugs that clearly are intended for use in equine therapeutics and those which are unlikely to affect race performance are placed in lower classes. Many of the drugs have numerous effects and side effects and this had to be considered within the classification. This drug classification will be reviewed on a regular basis and new drugs will be added or removed when deemed appropriate.

Note that this list of actual substances does not include all the metabolites of all the listed prohibited substances covered by the listed drug groupings. Some of the listed substances are precursors of prohibited substances (pro-drugs which are often steroid esters) and these are also considered prohibited substances. Where both a substance and its metabolite(s), or by the same token, if both a substance and its pro-drugs are reported, these are considered singular findings. Such metabolites and pro-drugs are classified corresponding to the prohibited substance.

Procaine positives are most likely associated with the administration of procaine penicillin and this has been taken into consideration in the placement of procaine into Class 4 instead of Class 2 with other local anesthetics unless evidence suggests a Class 2 contravention. Where a particular substance is found to be a feed or environmental contaminant, the specific pharmacological classification of the substance may be of less relevance than the issue of the contamination. The classification does not include those substances which would seem not to affect the performance of the horse or drugs such as antibiotics (correctly prescribed and administered), sulfonamides, vitamins, antifungals and anthelmintics.

International screening limits or thresholds apply to some of the substances which fall within classes 2, 3, 4 and 5. International screening limits (ISLs) are International Federation of Horseracing Authority (IFHA) agreed urine or plasma concentrations which are the official prosecution action levels for a list of specified therapeutic prohibited substances. International thresholds apply to a list of substances which are either endogenous to the horse or present in the feed or the environment. For these substances the concentrations must exceed the corresponding international threshold concentrations to be declared prohibited substance findings.

Classification of Prohibited Substances

Class 1: Substances which have no place in horseracing, including illegal or forbidden substances.

Included are substances forbidden in racing such as anabolic and androgenic steroids and ester preparations thereof. Also included are substances which are illegally sourced, human recreational drugs of abuse, insulin, growth promoters, growth hormones, erythropoietins and synthetic haemoglobin oxygen carriers.

Class 2: Substances which have an obvious effect on the performance of the horse.

These substances will affect the performance of the horse. Substances include central nervous system depressants and stimulants (excluding caffeine), barbiturates, cardiovascular system depressants and stimulants, psychoactive and psychotropic drugs and neuromuscular blocking agents. Also included are local anaesthetics (excluding procaine), narcotic analgesics, natural and synthetic opioids, opiate agonists, opioid agonist-antagonists, ACTH (adrenocorticotrophic hormone) and progesterones/ oestrogens (if administered to the male horse).

Class 3: Substances which have the potential to affect the performance of the horse with the potential to be abused.

Drugs that may or may not have a generally accepted medical use in the racehorse, but pharmacologically have less potential to affect performance than drugs in Class 2. Substances include sedatives, antihypertensives, antihypotensives, cardiac glycosides, antiarrhythmic agents, respiratory stimulants, tranquillizers, benzodiazepines and caffeine.

Class 4: Substances which have a generally accepted veterinary (therapeutic) use in the racehorse but which have the potential to affect performance.

Substance classes include corticosteroids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), diuretics, bronchodilators, skeletal muscle relaxants, non-narcotic analgesics, antipyretics and procaine.

Class 5: Substances which have an accepted veterinary use in horses but which may have performance modifying ability.

Examples include expectorants, antitussives, anti-diarrhoeals, anti-ulcer drugs, anti-allergic drugs, antihistamines, anti-coagulants, haemostatics, antispasmodics and choleric digestives.

Prohibited substance list

This list is inclusive of the local veterinary and human substances considered most important in treatment or of particular concern within horseracing in South Africa.



Prohibited Substance (or metabolite or pro-drug)	Clas s
A	
Acebutolol	3
Acepromazine	3
Acetazolamide	4
Acetaminophen (Paracetamol)	4
Acetylsalicylic acid	4
ACTH human synthetic (Adrenocorticotropic hormone)	2
Adrenaline	3
Adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH human synthetic)	2
Albuterol (Salbutamol)	3
Alfaxalone	2
Alfentanil	2
Allopurinol	3
Alprazolam	3
Altrenogest(in the male horse)	2
Ambroxol	5
Amiloride	4
Aminophylline	4
Amitriptylline	2
Arsenic	3
Atenolol	3
Atropine	5
Azaperone (Azapropazone)	3
B	
Baclofen	4
Beclomethasone	4
Benazepril	3
Betamethasone	4
Bisoprolol	3
Bromazepam	3
Bromhexine	5
Brotizolam	3
Budesonide	4
Buflomedil	3
Bupivacaine	2
Buprenorphine	2
Buspirone	2
Butorphanol	2
C	
Caffeine	3
Capsaicin	4
Captopril	3
Carbocysteine	5
Carprofen	4
Carvedilol	3
Cathine (Norpseudoephedrine)	2

Celecoxib	4
Cetirizine	5
Chlorpheniramine	5
Chlorpromazine	3
Chlorthalidone	4
Cimetidine	5
Cinnarizine	5
Citalopram	3
Clanobutin	5
Clenbuterol	4
Clidinium	5
Clobetasol	4
Clobetasol propionate	4
Clomipramine	2
Clonazepam	3
Clonidine	3
Codeine	2
Cortisone	4
D	
Dantrolene	4
Dembrexine	5
Detomidine	3
Dexamethasone	4
Dextromethorphan	5
Dextropropoxyphene	2
Diamorphine (Heroin)	1
Diazepam	3
Diclofenac	4
Digoxin	3
Dihydrocodeine	2
Dimethyl Sulphoxide (DMSO)	4
Diphenhydramine	5
Diphenylpyraline	5
Diprenorphine	2
Dipyrone(Metamizole)	5
DMSO (Dimethyl Sulphoxide)	4
Dopamine	3
Doxapram	3
E	
Enalapril (Enalaprilat)	3
Enalaprilat (Enalapril)	3
Ephedrine	4
Erythropoietin (locally available human EPO)	1
EthinylEstradiol(in the male horse)	2
Ethylestrenol(in the male horse)	2
Etofilline	4
Etoricoxib	4
Etorphine	2
F	
Fenoterol	4
Fentanyl	2
Firocoxib	4

Flavoxate	5
Fludrocortisone	4
Fluticasone propionate	4
Flumethasone (Flumetasone)	4
Flunitrazepam	3
Flunixin	4
Fluocinolone	4
Fluoxetine	2
Fluphenazine	2
Flurazepam	3
Fluticasone	4
Formoterol	4
Furosemide	4
G	
Gabapentin	5
Glycopyrrolate	5
Growth Hormone	1
Guaifenesin	5
H	
Haloperidol	3
Haemoglobin glutamers	1
Haemoglobin oxygen carrier	1
Heroin (Diamorphine)	1
Hydrochlorthiazide (Hydrochlorothiazide)	4
Hydrocodone	2
Hydrocortisone	4
Hydrocortisone hemisuccinate	4
Hydroxyprogesterone caproate (in the male horse)	2
Hydroxyprogesterone (in the male horse)	2
Hydroxyzine	3
Hyoscine (Scopolamine)	4
Hyoscine-N-butylscopolamine	5
I	
Ibuprofen	4
Imipramine	2
Indapamide	4
Indomethacin	4
Insulin	1
Ipratropium	4
Irbesartan	3
Isoxsuprine	3
K	
Ketamine	2
Ketoprofen	4
Ketorolac	4
L	

Labetalol	3
Lamotrigine	3
Lavamisole	5
Levodopa	3
Levonorgestrol	2
Lidocaine (Lignocaine)	2
Lisinopril	4
Loratidine	5
Lorazepam	3
Lormetazepam	3
Lornoxicam	4
Losartan	3
M	
Medetomidine	3
Medroxyprogesterone (in the male horse)	2
Medroxyprogesterone acetate (in the male horse)	2
Mefenamic acid	4
Meloxicam	4
Meperidine (Pethidine)	2
Mephenesin	4
Mepivacaine	2
Meprobromate (Meproamate)	3
Methocarbamol	4
Methyl salicylate	4
Methyldopa	3
Methylphenidate	2
Methylprednisolone	4
Metoclopramide	5
Metoprolol	3
Midazolam	4
Minoxidil	3
Mometasone furoate	4
Morphine	2
N	
N-Acetylcysteine	5
Nalbuphine	2
Naloxone	2
Naltrexone	2
Nandrolone (Nortestosterone)	1
Naproxen	4
N-Butylscopolamine	5
N-butyl-Scopolamine	5
Neostigmine	5
Nifedipine	3
Nitrazepam	3
Norpseudoephedrine (Cathine)	5
Nortestosterone (Nandrolone)	1
O	
Oestradiol	2
Omeprazole	5

Oxazepam	3
Oxybutynin	5
Oxycodone	2
Oxyphenbutazone	1
P	
Paracetamol (Acetaminophen)	4
Parecoxib	4
Paroxetine	2
Pemoline	2
Pentobarbital	2
Pethidine (Meperidine)	2
Phenazone	4
Pheniramine	5
Phenobarbital (Phenobarbitone)	2
Phenylbutazone	1
Phenylpropanolamine	3
Piretanide	4
Piroxicam	4
Prazepam	3
Prednisolone	4
Prednisolone hemisuccinate	4
Prednisone	4
Prilocaine	2
Probenecid	5
Procaine	4
Prochlorperazine	5
Progesterone	2
Propafenone	3
Propantheline (Propanthelline)	5
Propofol	2
Propranolol	3
Pseudoephedrine	3
R	
Ractopamine	1
Ramifenazone (Isopyrin)	4
Ranitidine	5
Reserpine	3
Risperidone	2
Robenacoxib	4
Romifidene	3
Ropivacaine	4
S	
Salbutamol (Albuterol)	4
Salicylic acid	4
Salmeterol	4
Scopolamine (Hyoscine)	4
Scopolamine N-Butyl	5

Sertraline	3
Sibutramine	5
Sildenafil	3
Somatropin	1
Sotalol	3
Sufentanil	2
Sumatriptan	4
Synephrine	3
T	
Temazepam	3
Terbutaline	4
Testosterone	1
Testosterone cypionate	1
Testosterone undecanoate	1
Tetracaine	2
Tetramisole	5
Theobromine	4
Theophylline	4
Thiafentanyl	2
Tiletamine	2
Tilidine	2
Timolol	3
Torseamide	4
Tramadol	2
Tranexamic acid	5
Trenbolone	1
Trenbolone acetate	1
Triamcinolone	4
Triamcinolone acetonide	4
Triazolam	3
Trimipramine	2
UVWXY	
Valerenic acid	4
Valsartan	3
Vedaprofen	4
Venlafaxine	2
Verapamil	3
Warfarin	5
Xylazine	3
Yohimbine	5
Z	
Zeranol	1
Zilpaterol	1
Zolmitriptan	4
Zolpidem	2
Zopiclone	3

Note that the above list is not comprehensive of all the substances being screened at the NHA Laboratory.

Guidelines for Penalties for Prohibited Substances

Penalties for Prohibited Substances - Rule 73.2 Contraventions

Class 1: Substances which have no place in horseracing, including illegal or forbidden substances.

Class 2: Substances which have an obvious effect on the performance of the horse.

Class 3: Substances which have the potential to affect the performance of the horse with the potential to be abused.

Class 4: Substances which have a generally accepted veterinary (therapeutic) use in the racehorse but which have the potential to affect performance.

Class 5: Substances which have an accepted veterinary use in horses but which may have performance modifying ability.

CLASS OF SUBSTANCE	FIRST OFFENCE	SECOND OFFENCE	THIRD OFFENCE	FOURTH OFFENCE
1	R115K - Warning Off	R287K to Warning Off	R575k to Warning Off	-
2	R69K to R115K	R115K to Warning Off	R287K to Warning Off	R575k to Warning Off
3	R34K to R69K	R69K to R103K	R172K to Warning Off	R287K to Warning Off
4	R23K to R46K	R34K to R80K	R92K to R172K	R172K to Warning Off
5	Warning to R17K	R17K to R34K	R34K to R69K	R80K and Upwards

The following guidelines will be applied by Inquiry Boards when dealing with Prohibited Substance offences:

1. The nature of Rule 73.2 contraventions

- 1.1 It must be appreciated that Rule 73.2 will apply to all classes of prohibited substance contraventions. A contravention of Rule 73.2, under any of the five classifications, remains a contravention of Rule 73.2.
- 1.2 But having said that, by virtue of the different classes of contraventions, some contraventions of this Rule will be viewed in a more serious light than others. For example, a class 2 substance should not be equated to a contravention involving a class 5 substance. Inquiry Boards are thus advised that, in considering prior offences, an Inquiry Board must be guided and influenced by the category in which any prior offence was classified. A prior offence in a lessor category should not be slavishly regarded as the equivalent of a prior offence in a more serious category (class of substance).

2. Warning Off

- 2.1 Inquiry Boards are advised to bear in mind that the schedule of penalties reflected on the proposed penalty guideline document are nothing more than that (i.e. guidelines), which should not be applied mechanically. Inquiry Boards must apply their minds to the facts relevant to any particular matter (as well as the nature of any prior contraventions), so as to ensure that a warning off is only imposed in circumstances which in fact properly justify the warning off of a trainer.
- 2.2 In applying the guidelines, an Inquiry Board should always be mindful that where the guidelines make reference to a “warning off”, this is not the only option to adopt. There may well be other factors, such as the nature of the prior offences, which should be considered in arriving at a suitable penalty. A number of factors which should be considered have also been referred to in the document titled “Guidelines for Classification of Prohibited Substances”.

3. The time period applicable to prior offences

It is accepted that a prior offence, which occurred more than 5 years prior to the contravention being inquired into, will be disregarded for the purpose of applying the guidelines.

4. Quality of Race

Inquiry boards must be mindful of the stake and quality of the race in determining a suitable penalty (i.e. Maiden race vs Group 1 race).

5. Rule 73.1 contraventions

It is emphasised that a contravention of Rule 73.1 (“administration”) will not necessarily be dealt with in accordance with these guidelines. In general, administration is considered in a more serious light than a contravention of the “strict liability” rule, Rule 73.2.