



HRV FINAL ELEVATED TCO₂ LEVELS POLICY

INT-PO-013
(01 JUN 2017)

1. INTRODUCTION

HRV Integrity Department continues to review current policies and processes to look at any areas for improvement to enhance and strengthen current systems to ensure a level playing field within the Victorian harness racing industry.

The following is an updated initiative from HRV Integrity Department regarding the presentation or retention of horses on course where the analysis of a previous blood sample taken from that horse or that trainer's horse(s) has revealed an elevated total carbon dioxide (TCO₂) level.

2. BACKGROUND

For there to be a breach of the prohibited substance rules regarding elevated threshold for TCO₂ taken from a horse, the level needs to exceed 37mmol/L (36mmol/L +/- 1mmol/L). Australian Harness Racing Rule 190 (1) states - A horse shall be presented to race free of a prohibited substance.

Presence of Alkalinising Agents are prohibited when evidence by TCO₂ present at a concentration of above 36.0mmol/L per litre in plasma.

196C. (1)

A person must not administer an alkalinising agent in any manner to a horse which is engaged to run in a race:

(a) at any time on the day of the scheduled race and prior to the start of the race

(b) at any time within (1) clear day of the commencement of the race.

The Australian Harness Racing Rules determine one clear day as meaning the twenty four (24) hour period from 12.01 a.m. to 12 midnight;

Results of blood samples which reveal elevated TCO₂ levels that fall just below the permissible threshold of 36.0mmol/L may not constitute a breach of AHRR 190 (1), however, such readings may indicate that an alkalinising agent has been administered to a horse on race day, potentially in breach of AHRR 196C (1).



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The HRV Integrity Department believe that the introduction of the below requirements will act as a deterrent to trainers who are administering alkalinising agents on race day.

3. PROCEDURE

Where a blood sample is collected from a horse, and that sample returns a plasma TCO₂ level of 35.0 mmol/L or greater, the HRV Stewards will implement one of the below options for that horses next 3 race starts.

The selected option may be altered for each race start at the discretion of the HRV Stewards.

Option 1

1. The trainer of the relevant horse shall ensure it is present **on course no less than 4 hours** prior to the scheduled start time in which the horse is entered at a Victorian Harness Racing meeting.
2. Should a trainer fail to present the horse by the required time, the horse shall be withdrawn from the race and the trainer may be subject to penalty.
3. Should the horse be transferred to another trainer within the period of 3 starts, the new trainer can make application for the restrictions to be lifted by the HRV Stewards.
4. HRV will publish a list of all horses required to be presented under this policy on its website.

Option 2

1. The horse which returned an elevated TCO₂ level trainer shall be retained on course for a minimum of 3 hours after the horse has completed its scheduled race at a Victorian Harness Racing meeting.
2. Should a trainer fail to abide by this requirement the trainer may be subject to a penalty.
3. Should the horse be transferred to another trainer within the period of 3 starts, the new trainer can make application for the restrictions to be lifted by HRV Stewards.
4. HRV will publish a list of all horses required to be presented under this policy on its website.



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Option 3

1. The Stewards shall attend the registered training address of the trainer of the horse which returned the elevated TCO₂ level for as long as is deemed reasonably necessary on the day of the race to supervise the pre-race preparation of the subject horse(s) when engaged at a Victorian race meeting. The intention of this action is to disrupt and prevent the likelihood of any race day treatment occurring.
2. Should a trainer fail to abide or hinder this requirement the trainer may be subject to penalty.
3. Should the horse be transferred to another trainer within the period of 3 starts the new trainer can make application for the restrictions to be lifted by HRV Stewards.
4. HRV will publish a list of all horses required to be presented under this policy on its website.

The name of the trainer of the horse with a confirmed plasma TCO₂ level of 35.0 mmol/L or greater, will also be published on the TCO₂ List, however prior to doing so, a reference sample must be obtained by HRV Stewards and a registered Veterinarian from that particular horse, so as to provide a safeguard for the rare circumstance of any horse who may have an organic elevated TCO₂ reading

One of the above options will be chosen at the discretion of the Stewards as there will be consideration given to factors which will include, but are not limited to, current intelligence, venue of the race meeting and other options that may have been utilised in respect of that horse and/or licensed trainer.

Trainers may seek to spell the horse while these obligations are in place and Stewards shall enforce these options irrespective of the time taken for the 3 starts to elapse.

Trainers may also seek to race the subject horse in quick succession in order for their obligations to be completed as soon as possible. There will be no minimum time period allocated for such obligations to be completed by the Trainer.

Any Licensed trainer who presents a horse to race which has a TCO₂ reading in excess of the prohibited substance threshold (the level needs to exceed 37mmol/L (36mmol/L +/- 1mmol/L) under the AHRR, then those horse(s) will be placed on the TCO₂ List for a minimum of five starts. HRV Stewards have discretion to enact either of the three options that have been outlined within this policy in respect of that horse during those 5 starts.