



Dear Athlete

Please read the attached advice from the FEI on the use of supplements in your horse.

EVERY YEAR there are positive medication cases under FEI rules due to the use of contaminated supplements. Note in that instance you are considered the Person Responsible (PR). A contaminated supplement WILL NOT excuse a positive doping test.

Some reputable supplement companies manufacture their products to a high standard and test each batch of their product to ensure it contains no prohibited substances. However, many companies do not. In human sports, reported contamination of nutritional supplements is estimated at between 10-25%.

It is each PR's responsibility to ensure any supplements used on their horse do not contain prohibited substances. Therefore, the advice is to only use supplements from reputable companies who manufacture to a high standard and batch test all their products.

Signed

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Team Veterinarian, Horse Sport Ireland



FEI Warning Regarding the Administration of Supplements to Horses

Articles 10.4 of the Equine Anti-Doping Rules and the Equine Controlled Medication Rules state that the elimination of a period of ineligibility on the basis of “**No Fault or Negligence**” does **not apply** “*where the **presence** of the Banned Substance/Controlled Medication Substance in a Sample came from a **mislabeled or contaminated supplement.***” Articles 10.4 go on to state that “*Persons Responsible are responsible for what their Horses ingest and have been warned about the possibility of supplement contamination*”.

Persons Responsible should be aware that it is **not unusual** for **supplements**, herbal remedies etc. marketed within the equine industry or over the internet to **contain Banned Substances or Controlled Medication Substances** that are **not disclosed** on the product label. It is also possible that those substances are contained in **different amounts** in the supplement, herbal remedies etc. than stated on the label, or the product used may have been **inadvertently contaminated** with a Banned or Controlled Medication Substance. There is **no guarantee** that the ingredients list on any supplement, herbal remedy etc. is accurate.

In the past horses, to which supplements, herbal remedies etc., have been given have produced positive tests as a result of ingesting such products. **Persons Responsible are responsible for what their horses ingest** and they are, therefore, **responsible for any substance found in a sample** provided by their horse. A contaminated supplement will **not excuse** a positive doping test, and sanctions will be imposed in accordance with the rules.

Persons Responsible must take all steps to **verify** the ingredients of any medicines and supplements that they choose to give (or have given) to their horse.

Persons Responsible should never purchase (or have purchased) supplements from non-reputable sources. Online resources may be able to help in identifying **reputable sources**, but not all supplements can be or are checked, and it is well known that product ingredients vary from country to country, and even from batch to batch.

Where supplements are given to a Person Responsible’s horse, the FEI’s Veterinary Regulations recommend keeping a **logbook** listing all supplements administered to the horse, including **all details** such as date of administration, dose, place of administration (location), official product name and the relevant batch number.

Any Person Responsible who uses supplements, herbal remedies etc. for his/her horse does so **at his or her own risk** of committing an EADCMR violation. Persons Responsible should always ensure that they **exercise extreme caution** and judgment in the products that they use.



Persons Responsible are also advised to **ensure** that all members of their **Support Personnel** are **informed** about the risk of giving supplements, herbal remedies to their horses and act accordingly.

The FEI's message is:

"IF IN ANY DOUBT, DO NOT GIVE IT TO YOUR HORSE".