



THOROUGHBRED RACING SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Important Notice to Trainers and all other racing participants regarding FORMALDEHYDE

Trainers and all other racing participants' attention is drawn to the existence of compounded injectable products for horses containing the substance *formaldehyde*. Apart from being a prohibited substance, *formaldehyde* is also known to be toxic and potentially carcinogenic when given by injection, raising serious welfare concerns for horses administered *formaldehyde* by injection. There are no APVMA-registered veterinary products for injection that contain *formaldehyde* as their principal active ingredient, although an interstate compounding pharmacy was identified as having produced an injectable product containing 10% *formaldehyde* for use in horses. There are other unregistered injectable veterinary products such as Bio-Bleeder and Kentucky Green that have been found to contain *formaldehyde* and other aldehydes.

Effective forthwith, TRSA Stewards provide notice to trainers and other racing participants that injectable products containing *formaldehyde* are banned in racing, whether for in- or out-of-competition use, and the presence of *formaldehyde* in a racing stable would constitute an offence under AR80E. Furthermore, race day and out-of-competition samples may be tested for the presence of *formaldehyde*. Significant penalties will apply to the finding of such products in a racing stable, or the detection of *formaldehyde* in a sample taken from a horse.

Furthermore, trainers are again warned of the dangers of having on their premises and using on their horses, any unregistered products. Many of these products are not properly labelled, do not list their active ingredients, and may be contaminated with other prohibited substances, including those listed in AR177B(2).

**J.C. Petzer
Chairman of Stewards
8 October 2015**