

History

The California equine industry sponsored legislation in 1971 to prevent misuse of drugs and medications in equines (horses, ponies, mules and donkeys) in public shows and sales. The resulting law, found in the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Sections 24000-24018, is known as the California Equine Medication Rule. The California Department of Food and Agriculture manages the Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP), and monitors equines in public shows, competitions and sales through random collection of blood or urine for chemical analysis. To fund the EMMP, event managers collect a fee of \$5.00 for each equine being entered in a show/competition or being consigned to a sale.

Exhibitor and Consignor Responsibilities

An exhibitor or consignor for a registered equine event must:

- Comply with the California Equine Medication Rule.
- File an accurate and complete Drug Declaration Form with the event manager.
- Cooperate with EMMP field personnel from the time of selection for sampling until official release of the selected equine.

California Equine Medication Rule

According to the California Equine Medication Rule, a therapeutic drug or medicine is a substance prescribed by a licensed veterinarian for the treatment of a diagnosed illness or injury. The rule classifies therapeutic drugs or medicines as prohibited and permitted.

California Medication Rule Restrictions

The California Equine Medication Rule prohibits the administration of any injectable substance into an equine within 12 hours of competition, except for a veterinarian administering the following:

1. A minimum of 1 liters of polyionic fluids per 100 pounds body weight given within 6-12 hours of competition. (NOTE: Fluids supplemented with concentrated electrolytes, such as magnesium, are prohibited.)
2. Antibiotics (NOTE: Procaine Penicillin is prohibited).
3. Dexamethasone injection not to exceed 0.5 milligrams per 100 pounds exclusively for the treatment of acute urticaria (hives) within 6-12 hours of competition.

The veterinarian must file a Drug Declaration Form (CA Form 76-027 or USEF Form) within 1 hour of administration of these injectable substances.

Prohibited Substances

Prohibited substances that affect performance or disposition include stimulants, depressants, tranquilizers, anesthetics, local anesthetics, sedative analgesics, anabolic steroids, corticosteroids, and soring agents. Use of therapeutic drugs or medicines other than under veterinary prescription for a diagnosed illness or injury is prohibited. **Prohibited drugs for therapeutic purposes must be withdrawn 24 hours before competition or 72 hours before sale.** If a prohibited substance is administered for any other purpose, such as clipping, shipping, and training, the animal must be withdrawn from competition until the substance is no longer detectable in an animal's blood or urine sample. Depending upon the drug administration scenario, the prohibited substance and its metabolites may remain detectable in the blood or urine sample of the animal for a number of days after the final administration of the substance. See *2014 Drugs and Medications Guidelines Document* for additional information.

Permissible Restricted Substances

It is acceptable to administer therapeutic drugs and medicines to equines before and during registered equine shows and competitions provided the dose of drug does not exceed any maximum allowable levels in plasma or urine. The rule allows the use of only one nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) in equines. Detection of more than one NSAID in a plasma or urine sample collected from an equine in show or competition is a violation. When two NSAIDs are part of a veterinary therapeutic regime, administration of one of the NSAIDs must stop at least 72 hours before competition.

The nine permitted drugs, not to exceed maximum allowable levels, are:

- Dexamethasone (Azium®)
- Diclofenic Acid (Surpass®)
- Firocoxib (Equioxx®)
- Flunixin (Banamine®)
- Ketoprofen (Ketofen®)
- Meclofenamic Acid (Arquel®)
- Methocarbamol (Robaxin®)
- Naproxen (Naprosyn®)
- Phenylbutazone (Butazolidin®)

Emergency administration of Flunixin (Banamine®) by a veterinarian is allowable for the treatment of colic or an ophthalmic emergency provided there is a 24 hour withdrawal of the equine from competition after administration. A Drug Declaration Form (CA Form 76-027 or USEF Drugs and Medications Report Form) must be completed by the veterinarian and filed with an event manager within 1 hour of administration. A finding of Flunixin (Banamine®) and any other NSAID in the same plasma or urine sample collected 24 hours or more after emergency treatment of an equine is not a violation.

For specific drug and medications guidelines, including permissible levels, refer to the **Drugs and Medications Guidelines**
http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/emmp/

Withdrawal from Sale or Competition

An equine must be withdrawn from competition for:

- 24 hours after the administration of a prohibited substance
- 45 days after the administration of reserpine and fluphenazine
- 90 days after the administration of an anabolic steroid.

An equine that has been given a prohibited substance or NSAID cannot be sold at a public sale for a minimum of 72 hours after administration of the prohibited substance or NSAID.

Drug Declaration Form

A Drug Declaration Form (CDFA Form 76-027 or USEF Drugs and Medication Report Form) is a legal document that an exhibitor or consignor must complete and file with an event manager for any equine at an event that has received a prohibited substance that a licensed veterinarian has deemed therapeutically necessary for the treatment of an illness or injury. An **owner/exhibitor/trainer** must complete and file a Drug Declaration Form for any equine that has received a prohibited substance within the three (3) days before the day being shown. A **consignor** must complete and file a Drug Declaration Form for any equine that has received a prohibited substance or NSAID within the five (5) days before the day of the sale.

The owner/exhibitor/trainer is to submit the completed Drug Declaration Form to the event manager within one (1) hour of administration of the product(s) at the event. If the product administration occurs at a time other than during show or sale hours, the owner/exhibitor/trainer is to submit the completed form within one (1) hour after an event manager returns to duty. An event manager must sign and date Drug Declaration forms and submit them to the EMMP. USEF forms must be submitted to USEF. Properly filed drug declarations, along with other relevant evidence, are given consideration if and when the chemical analysis of a sample obtained from an equine at a public horse show, competition or sale indicates the presence of a prohibited substance or NSAID.

Sample Collection

EMMP field personnel receive assignments to randomly select equines competing in or consigned to a registered event for sample collection. Any equine on an event premises is subject to random selection for sampling and testing, however at public shows and competitions, selection often focuses on animals that have placed in a class. EMMP field personnel are trained to collect urine samples. When a California licensed veterinarian is assigned to work with EMMP field staff, selected equines are subject to collection of a blood sample.

When an equine is selected, the owner, trainer, or designee must maintain control of the selected animal and take it to a location designated by the EMMP representative for sample collection.

Once in the designated location, the individual must remove themselves from the immediate proximity of the animal and avoid any activities distractive to the animal. **It is the selected individual's responsibility to submit horse for sample collection.** Failure to cooperate with EMMP staff or failure to submit a selected equine for sampling is a violation of the law and subject to civil penalty of not less than \$100 and not more than \$10,000.

An EMMP priority is the safety of the public, the horse and EMMP representatives. An EMMP representative may officially release a selected equine without sample collection if the animal poses a safety risk. If a reasonable attempt to collect a sample is made without successful collection of a sufficient sample volume, the veterinarian or EMMP field personnel will document the sample collection attempt and may officially release the selected equine.

Failure to cooperate with EMMP personnel or to submit a selected equine for sample collection is a violation and the individual involved is subject to civil penalties.

(Not less than \$100 and not more than \$10,000)

Drug Detection Investigation

EMMP personnel seal collected samples and submit the samples for chemical analysis to the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory. When the chemical analysis of a blood or urine specimen is positive for detection of a drug or medicine, an EMMP investigation begins. The owner/exhibitor/trainer or consignor of the equine with a sample found positive on chemical analysis will receive an initial EMMP investigatory letter requesting submission, within a designated timeframe, of relevant evidence or information about the detected substance. The EMMP considers submitted information in determining if a violation occurred.

If it is determined that a violation of the rule has occurred, a notice of violation will be issued. The assessment of the civil penalty considers the type of drug detected and the background information provided in the investigation.

- Civil penalties of not less than \$100 and not more than \$10,000 for each offense will apply to the owner, the trainer, or both the owner and trainer of an equine found to have a chemical analysis with a prohibited substance or permissible substance in violation of the rule.
- The owner, trainer, or both owner and trainer may receive a suspension from all public shows and competitions for a period of not less than 90 days or more than one year for each violation.
- The owner of an equine found in violation of the rule may have to pay a penalty fee of \$50.00 to the public show or competition.

For additional information:

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http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/emmp/

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**Animal Health and Food Safety
Services**

Equine Medication Monitoring Program



**Information for
Exhibitors
and
Consignors
January 2018**