



INDUSTRY NOTICE

Australian Rules of Racing - AR.80E

Revised rule introduced to deal with unregistered, improperly supplied and/or compounded stable medications

Trainers and other thoroughbred racing industry participants should be aware of revised Australian Rule of Racing AR.80E that becomes effective from 1st August, 2015.

“AR.80E

- (1) A person must not, without the express permission of the Stewards, have in his or her possession any substance (including any medication, medicine, supplement, herbal product or therapeutic good) that:
 - (a) is not registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) in accordance with the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Cth);
 - (b) is not registered with the APVMA except where the APVMA has granted a permit to use the substance on horses;
 - (c) is not listed or registered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods; or
 - (d) is a compounded substance (as defined in AR 80E(4)) except where:
 - (i) the compounded substance has been prescribed by a veterinary practitioner registered or licensed in Australia for a particular horse with a particular condition;
 - (ii) the substance has been compounded in accordance with the relevant State, Territory and/or Commonwealth legislation by a:
 - (A) veterinary practitioner licensed or registered in Australia; or
 - (B) pharmacist registered in Australia in accordance with a prescription from a veterinary practitioner licensed or registered in Australia;
 - (iii) there is no alternative product registered in Australia which is available to treat the specific condition for which the compounded substance has been prescribed;
 - (iv) the compounded substance has been labelled to show all ingredients; and
 - (v) all active ingredients are:

- (A) registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) in accordance with the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Cth);
 - (B) if not registered with the APVMA, the subject of a permit issued by the APVMA to permit the use of the substance on horses; or
 - (C) listed or registered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.
- (2) A person must not, without the express permission of the Stewards, have in his or her possession any substance (including any medication, medicine, supplement, herbal product or therapeutic good) that is not labelled, prescribed, dispensed and obtained in accordance with relevant Commonwealth and State legislation.
- (3) Without limiting any other rule, the Stewards may take possession of any substance or preparation mentioned in sub-rules (1) and (2), and may use it as evidence in any relevant proceedings.
- (4) For the purpose of AR 80E(1) a “compounded substance” is a substance which is combined with one or more other therapeutically active substances in such a way that it cannot be separated from them by simple dissolution or by other simple means.
- (5) A person who is in breach of AR 80E(1) or (2) commits an offence and may be penalised.”

Implications of AR.80E

In essence, this Rule makes it an offence for a trainer (or anyone else in charge of racehorses in training) to have in their possession:

- unregistered veterinary chemical products,
- restricted prescription medicines (whether veterinary or human medicines) that have not been properly supplied and labelled, or
- any other substances or products to be used in or on horses in their care that are compounded or manufactured outside of the regulatory framework governing the manufacture, supply and control of use of medicines and poisons in Australia.

Veterinary medicines (or veterinary chemical products)

This is a general term, meaning substances or mixtures of substances that are supplied or used for administration to an animal, by any means, as a way of:

- preventing, diagnosing, curing or alleviating a disease or condition in the animal or an infestation of the animal by a pest;
- curing or alleviating an injury suffered by the animal;
- modifying the physiology of the animal so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or to make it more manageable; or,
- modifying the effect of another veterinary chemical product.

Veterinary chemical products include prescription animal remedies, as well as unrestricted products that are open-sellers that can be obtained from veterinarians or other sources. Veterinary chemical products which fulfil any of the above-listed criteria should be registered with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and, accordingly, be sold with an APVMA registered label affixed to the product container and its packaging.

It is therefore an offence under AR.80E for a trainer or other responsible person to have in his possession or on his premises any veterinary chemical product defined above that is not registered with the APVMA.

Prescription (S4) medicines

These include "Prescription Animal Remedies" which are veterinary medicines included in poisons Schedule 4 that must only be prescribed and dispensed by a registered veterinarian in the practice of their profession for the treatment of animals. They also include "Prescription Only Medicines" for humans which can also be prescribed or supplied by veterinarians for use in horses.

Prescription medicines (veterinary or human) used in racing stables must only be dispensed by a veterinarian or obtained from a pharmacy using a prescription supplied by a veterinarian. In addition to the registered manufacturer's label, all such prescription medicines must have attached to them a label from the veterinarian or pharmacist that contains the following information:

- the name of the owner or person having custody of the animal,
- the horse's name or an accurate description of the animal to be treated,
- the date of supply,
- the name, address and telephone number of the dispensing/prescribing veterinarian,
- the approved and proprietary names of the drug dispensed,
- clear directions for use,
- the words 'KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN' in capital RED letters, and
- the words 'For animal treatment only' if the product is a human "Prescription Only Medicine".

The veterinarian's or pharmacist's label must be attached to the actual immediate container in which the preparation is supplied.

Examples of prescription animal remedies include antibiotics, most anti-inflammatory drugs, corticosteroids (oral and injectable); bronchodilators, injectable local anaesthetics; topical skin preparations containing antibiotics and/or corticosteroids; and tranquillisers.

It is therefore an offence under AR.80E for a trainer or other responsible person to have in his possession or on his premises any prescription medicine that is not properly supplied or is not labelled as described above.

Unrestricted, non-prescription registered veterinary chemical products used in racehorses include deworming preparations; vitamin, mineral and nutritional supplements (oral and injectable); some vaccines; electrolytes; iron and other “blood building” agents; and topical liniments. These should be registered with the APVMA and sold with an APVMA registered label affixed to the product container and its packaging.

There is also over-the-counter human medicines obtained from pharmacies and elsewhere that have been used to treat racehorses. According to AR.80E, these must be listed or registered on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. As many of these medicines contain prohibited substances, extreme care must be exercised when using these products, and veterinary advice sought before any horse is treated with such products.

Veterinary medicines available under APVMA permit

Certain unregistered veterinary medicines are available under permit granted by the APVMA. Such medicines must only be supplied by a veterinarian according to the conditions imposed upon the permit holder (manufacturer) by the APVMA, as published on the APVMA website.

Compounded medicines

A person may only possess compounded veterinary medicines which have been prescribed by a veterinary practitioner for a particular horse for a particular condition, and where no other product registered for veterinary use can effectively treat that condition. This provision is intended to ensure that the prescription and use of compounded substances are controlled. In addition, a person is only permitted to possess a compounded substance where all active ingredients contained in the substances are registered by the APVMA (or if not, the subject of an APVMA permit for use in horses) or registered or listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Use care when treating horses

As a general reminder, trainers are urged to examine their stable medicine supplies for unregistered medicines, prescription medicines that are not properly labelled by a veterinarian, and medicines beyond their expiry date, and dispose of such products appropriately.

In any event, trainers should seek veterinary professional advice whenever racehorses are treated with any veterinary medicine or other preparation containing a prohibited substance.