



HEALTH, SAFETY AND REGULATORY MEASURES 2008

FACT SHEET
January 23, 2008

Measure	Licensed Veterinarians – Requirement to use
Overview	Only certified professionals should be treating our equine athletes – they have the expertise and knowledge required to know what is good for the horse, and the understanding of the regulatory requirements to know what can be given and when in order to prevent positive tests. This measure will require trainers to use Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) licensed veterinarians for any prescription or treatment of a racehorse.
Effective Date	Issuance of Directive on rule changes January 31, 2008, with rule to be effective June 1, 2008.
Background	There is ongoing concern in the racing industry about the numbers of positive tests and the use of non-therapeutic medications in racehorses. Trainers, utilizing the services of veterinarians who are not licensed by the ORC, may be putting themselves at risk of receiving a positive test in one of their horses simply because that veterinarian was not familiar with the rules of racing in this province. Properly ORC licensed veterinarians are much more likely to utilize or prescribe medications which are of benefit only to the health and welfare of the racehorse.
Rules	New Standardbred Rule 26.17 New Thoroughbred Rule 29.13 For any medication or drug requiring a prescription and any treatment ordinarily requiring the services of a veterinarian for any horse under his/her care and control, a trainer is required to use a veterinarian licensed by the Commission as a veterinarian. A trainer of a horse may apply to the Director for an exemption from this rule, where the trainer trains a horse in an area under-served by equine veterinarians licensed by the Commission. Further a trainer may use a veterinarian not licensed by the Commission for the purposes of emergency treatment of a horse, provided the trainer advises the Director of the circumstance in writing within a reasonable time.

New Standardbred Rule 26.18
New Thoroughbred Rule 29.14

At the time of declaring a horse for entry, the trainer of the horse is responsible for ensuring that the person making the entry declares the name of the ORC licensed veterinarian who has primary care of that horse. Failure or refusal by a trainer to comply may result in the horse being made ineligible.
