



HEALTH, SAFETY AND REGULATORY MEASURES 2008

FACT SHEET
January 23, 2008

Measure	Use of Shockwave Therapy
Overview	While recognizing the therapeutic value of Shock Wave Therapy when properly used, the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) has implemented new rules for its use to ensure the health of the horse and the safety of all participants in racing.
Effective Date	Issuance of Directive regarding rule change January 31, 2008.
Background	<p>Shock Wave Therapy involves using a machine to send focused pressure waves to a particular spot. This method of treating horses for injury is becoming more commonplace and when used correctly, is felt to have therapeutic value.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to the “freezing” effect of the application in the short term, there is concern that the therapy may be used close to race time to act as a pain killer.</p> <p>Research suggests that there is no means to determine if the therapy has been used and certainly no means to know when it was used. Therefore, the only means of controlling its use is to establish proper guidelines for its use.</p>
Rule	<p>New Standardbred Rule New Thoroughbred Rule</p> <p>The use of Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy or Radial Pulse Wave Therapy shall not be permitted on any racehorse unless the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) the treatment took place a minimum of 4 days (96 hours) prior to competing in a race;b) the treatment using the Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy or Radial Pulse Wave Therapy machine was conducted by a veterinarian licensed by the Commission as a veterinarian;

- c) any treatment received while on the grounds of the Association was through the use of an Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy or Radial Pulse Wave Therapy machine owned and operated by a veterinarian licensed by the Commission; and
 - d) a record of the treatment, including the date and time, is maintained as part of the record of the horse.
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