



DEFINITION OF A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE

You should assume that any medication or supplement (including herbal substances) that has, or claims to have, an effect on horses (or any other species) is prohibited unless you have specific advice from the BHA Equine Health and Welfare Department that states otherwise.

- The definition of a Prohibited Substance is a substance which originates externally to a horse, whether or not it is endogenous to it and which falls in any of the categories listed in [Schedule \(C\) 6 - Prohibited Substances of the Rules of Racing](#).
- There is a zero-tolerance policy on the use of Prohibited Substances in Schedule (C) 6 paragraph 3, and these substances must never be administered, in accordance with [Rule \(C\) 55. Administration of Prohibited Substances whilst in the care or control of a Trainer](#).
- Not all Prohibited Substances are banned in horses in training, as they can be essential to treat disease or injury, however, horses must not race under the direct influence of therapeutic substances, and therefore it is important to cease treatment at an appropriate time before presenting a horse for racing. Substances allowed in training are known as controlled Prohibited Substances.
- While the use of controlled Prohibited Substances for veterinary treatment, with a suitable withdrawal period, is perfectly acceptable, [General Manual \(A\) Part 4 – 27. Administering a Prohibited Substance to a Horse](#) states that it is an offence to administer a Prohibited Substance to a horse with the intention of affecting its racing performance (whether or not the drug is detected in a sample).
- In some cases exemptions apply to authorised medicines e.g. certain [anti-infectious agents](#) and these will be notified to racing participants from time-to-time. More information can be found in the [BHA Notices Section](#).