



## **ELECTIVE TESTING**

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) provides Trainers the opportunity to have Elective Testing carried out at LGC (formerly HFL Sports Science), our partner analytical laboratory, near Newmarket.

Elective Testing can be utilised by Trainers who wish to establish:

- That medication given for essential veterinary treatment has cleared from a horse's system before a race; and,
- When a Trainer suspects inadvertent medication or contaminated feedstuffs may have been given to a horse or horses.

Elective Testing is done at the Trainer's expense and is carried out in accordance with the Terms and Conditions outlined below, and at the discretion of the BHA. The BHA may, in any case, decline to allow the Elective Testing sample to be analysed, without giving any reasons.

The BHA draw attention to the fact that there is no assurance that the results of an analysis will be replicated by an analysis of another sample taken later from the same horse, and that a negative report from Elective Testing does not override the Rules of Racing with regard to the testing of raceday samples and the consequences of the results of such testing being positive.

### **Step-by-step guide:**

#### **1. Request approval for Elective Testing**

The Trainer should contact the *Equine Health and Welfare Department* on 0207 152 0090 or at [equine@britishhorseracing.com](mailto:equine@britishhorseracing.com) to request approval for Elective Testing. If approval is granted an individual code will be assigned to the sample, which must be used for identification of the sample when submitting it.

In order for a request to be granted the horse must usually have a current race entry, and details of the treatment given, must be provided including:

- Substance administered (trade name and active ingredient)
- Dosage administered
- Route of administration
- Duration of Treatment (including last date of administration)

If the request relates to inadvertent medication or suspected contaminated feedstuff you will be asked for details relating to this.



The [Elective Testing Request for Approval Form](#) is available for download on the BHA website, under Anti-Doping and Medication Control. The completed form must be returned to the Equine Health and Welfare Department prior to sample submission. The Trainer should retain a copy of the completed form.

If sample analysis is not urgent the BHA may be able to assist by arranging a urine collection kit be sent to the Trainer.

## **2. Collecting the sample**

- Urine must be collected in a clean (not necessarily sterile), leak-proof container. Lining the collection container with an unused polythene bag is a good way to minimise the risk of contaminating the sample.
- For accurate results care must be taken to prevent contamination of the sample. The risk of contamination can be significantly reduced by:
  - Thorough hand washing prior to sample collection.
  - Wearing disposable latex gloves, or similar, (such as can be purchased from Boots or other pharmacy) during the collection process.
  - Collecting and packaging the sample in a clean, dust-free environment.
- The sample must be URINE, and a minimum of 50mls is required.
- Bottles that have previously contained medicines are not suitable, as traces of medicine may remain, even after washing.

## **3. Download and complete Elective Testing Sample Submission Form**

[Elective Testing Sample Submission Form](#) is available for download on the BHA website, under Anti-Doping and Medication Control.

The Trainer and his Veterinary Surgeon\* (where applicable) should complete the form. The completed form should be sent with the sample to LGC and the Trainer should retain a copy for his own records.

Please note the Sample Submission Form (unlike the Request for Approval Form) does not ask for any details of the Trainer or Horse, this ensures the sample is submitted to LGC anonymously.

\*The signature of the veterinary surgeon is not necessary if the sample relates to suspected inadvertent medication or contaminated feed.



#### **4. Submitting the sample to LGC**

- The container containing the sample must be clearly labelled with:
  - The code assigned to you by the *Equine Health and Welfare Department*, and;
  - Details of the substance administered.
- The sample should be packed securely, and clearly marked 'Elective Testing'. Please see the Post Office website for further details on restrictions that apply to transport of biological substances such as animal urine through the post.
- Send the sample to: Sample Management Team, Sport & Specialised Analytical Services, LGC, Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5WW.
- You should notify the *Equine Health and Welfare Department* of the expected arrival date of the sample at the laboratory.

#### **5. Analysis & Results**

- On receipt of the sample LGC will confirm that the BHA has approved the Elective Testing sample. If the BHA notify LGC that the sample has not be approved for Elective Testing it may be destroyed.
- If approval is confirmed, Weatherbys will be informed to charge the cost of the Elective Testing to the Trainer's account. The approximate cost is £128.01 + VAT (2018), although pricing is subject to change, so please contact *Equine Health and Welfare* for an accurate current cost.
- Analysis of the sample is undertaken at LGC for the specific substance, as recorded on the Elective Testing Sample Submission Form.
- In most circumstances results are known within 3 full working days of receipt of the sample.
- Results are reported to *Equine Health and Welfare* via e-mail.



## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ELECTIVE TESTING**

1. Elective Testing is available to Trainers only. It relates to essential treatment prescribed or advised by a veterinary surgeon or inadvertent medication or use of contaminated feeds. The sample will be analysed only for the named drug and/or its metabolites.
2. Elective Testing is only usually available when a horse has a current race entry.
3. Sample collection must be carried out in accordance with the procedure outlined in the step-by-step guide (above).
4. Quantitative measurement of threshold substances is not included in the standard service.
6. All requests for testing will be referred to the BHA for approval. The BHA reserves the right to refuse such a request.
7. The fee (correct for 2018) for the analysis is £128.01 + VAT. Once authorisation for analysis is given, Weatherbys will be notified to charge this amount to the trainer's account.
8. Wherever possible, the results of the test will be notified to the BHA *Equine Health and Welfare Department* within three full working days of receipt of the sample.
9. Because of the time constraints of this procedure, the report will be based on the results of a single analysis only. A full, unequivocal confirmatory analysis will not be carried out.
10. The results and cost of the test relate only to the named drug and apply only to the sample received. They do not indicate that the sample came from the named horse.
11. It cannot be construed from the results of this test that another sample taken later from the same horse will give the same result.
12. The BHA will not accept the results of Elective Testing as a possible defence if the horse subsequently tests positive.
13. All sections of the Elective Testing Sample Submission Form must be completed and signed. The form should be submitted by email (or fax) to the *Equine Health and Welfare Department* in advance of the sample being sent to the laboratory.