



DATE: January 12, 2010

TO: Judges, Racetrack Managers,  
Regulatory Veterinarians, Practicing Veterinarians  
PHHA, MSOA, All Horsemen, Racing Secretaries

FROM: Michael Dillon *Michael Dillon 1-12-10*  
Acting Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: **AMENDED DIRECTIVE – Commencing February 1, 2010 the Pre & Post Race Acid Base Testing Program will be revised.**

Pursuant to the above captioned matter, the Pennsylvania Harness Racing Commission as of February 1, 2010, will revise the Pre & Post Race testing policy. In order to maintain and protect the integrity of the sport, it is the Harness Racing Commission's responsibility to periodically review its rules on medications and Pre & Post Race testing as new scientific information becomes available, and determine that the revisions of these rules are in the best interest of racing, horsemen, and the health and safety of the horse. As of February 1, 2010, the following changes will be made in the Acid Base Testing Program:

1. Post-Race testing will be discontinued.
2. The number of horses tested Pre-Race may be increased.
3. All horses will report to the paddock 2-hours prior to their scheduled race.
4. The "no exercise" policy prior to reporting to the paddock will be enforced.
5. Horses reporting to the paddock and showing evidence of having exercised will be examined by the Commission Veterinarian. If in the opinion of the Commission Veterinarian the horse has been exercising, the horse will be tested last.
6. All other horses in the race will be tested on a random basis.
7. Horses will be deemed "unfit for competition" under the following circumstances:
  - a. Based on examination by a Commission Veterinarian
  - b. High metabolic alkalosis at levels established by the Harness Racing Commission.

When it is determined that a horse has a high metabolic alkalosis, the horse will be scratched from competition. Furthermore, the horse will be placed on the Vet List and will not be able to be dropped into the box for 30 consecutive days after the high metabolic alkalosis positive.

cc: Commissioners  
Jorge Augusto

Chairman Roy W. Wilt  
Commissioner Arthur E. Manuel  
Commissioner Richard J. Welsh

Acting Executive Secretary Michael Dillon