



Equestrian Canada Drug Classification Scheme

This Classification Scheme does not constitute a Prohibited List of banned substances not allowed in horses. Rather, it is designed to allow a hearing panel, after an equine medication violation has been determined, to determine the most appropriate sanction. The drugs, medications and types of substances listed under each Class are not exhaustive. The list in each Class provides examples of drugs, medications and types of substances with similar effects on a horse or that are considered equivalently serious when detected in a horse participating in an EC sanctioned competition. Sanctions will be imposed on a Class by Class basis.

Class 1:

- Substances which have no place in performing horses. Many of these compounds do not have legitimate medical uses in horses, and the remaining compounds would only be used for severely debilitated animals. Abuse of these compounds is of serious ethical (and many cases, legal) concern.
- Most of these compounds are included in Schedules 1 and 3 of the Canadian Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA)
- Examples of Class 1 drugs:
 - o Opioids such as fentanyl, morphine, heroin and codeine
 - o Cocaine
 - o Amphetamine and its derivatives listed in Schedule 3 of the CDSA
 - o Methylphenidate (Ritalin)
 - o Methaqualone

Class 2:

- These compounds are not appropriate for use around the time of performance. Inappropriate use may alter the horse's behaviour and ability to perform; medical use of these compounds indicates health status incompatible with athletic competition.
- Benzodiazepines
- Barbiturates
- Beta-adrenergic agonists not approved for use in horses
- Local anesthetics
- Erythropoietin, darbepoietin
- Non-depolarizing muscle relaxants (e.g., pancuronium, vecuronium)
- Tricyclic antidepressants
- Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (antidepressants)
- Antipsychotic drugs including most phenothiazines (so fluphenazine is included here but acepromazine is not)
- Ketamine
- Guaifenesin
- GABA
- Magnesium (in a syringe)



Class 3:

- Unapproved NSAIDs
- Cases where multiple approved NSAIDs are detected
- Anabolic steroids
- Drugs used for standing sedation (butorphanol, acepromazine, detomidine, romifidine, xylazine)
- Alpha-2 adrenergic agonist reversal agents (yohimbine, tolazoline)
- Anticholinergics (atropine, glycopyrrolate, hyoscine/scopolamine and derivatives)
- Ephedrine
- Caffeine
- Cardiovascular drugs
 - o ACE inhibitors
 - o Phosphodiesterase inhibitors (including sildenafil)
 - o Calcium channel blockers
 - o Beta-blockers
 - o Digoxin, digitoxin
- Antihistamines including hydroxyzine
- Non-barbiturate anti-convulsants
- Ergoloid mesylates and ergot alkaloids
- Gabapentin

Class 4:

- NSAIDs approved for use in horses in Canada, detected alone (where event-specific rules prohibit such use)
- Diuretics (including thiazide diuretics, acetazolamide, furosemide and other loop diuretics)
- Muscle relaxants
- Demborexine
- Corticosteroids
- Isoxsuprine
- Parasympathomimetics including bethanechol
- DMSO
- Altrenogest
- Medroxyprogesterone

Class 5:

- Mast cell stabilizers (Cromolyn, nedocromil)
- Proton pump inhibitors except omeprazole
- H2 antagonists except ranitidine and cimetidine
- Anticoagulants