



AMENDMENTS TO AUSTRALIAN RULES OF RACING

Proposed Amendment - Australian Residue Limits, AR2 and AR 257B

Summary

These proposed rule changes cover the Australian Residue Limits (ARL) including a new definition to be included in AR 2, a new ARL Table with preamble and new AR257B.

Communication has taken place between Veterinary and Analytical Advisory Group (VAAG) and the Chairmen of Stewards Committee (COSC) during several meetings in 2023 based on communication from VAAG in 2022 providing the technical basis for these changes.

In July 2022 VAAG provided the following information to COSC;

“The IFHA publish a list of International Residue Limits, which are in effect screening limits for substances of environmental origin or those that may be found naturally occurring in a horse’s diet. These substances may be detected in a sample at low levels consistent with the substances arising as a result of being found naturally in the horse’s environment or diet.

As these substances may vary in their presence in the environment due to regional factors the view of VAAG is that Australia should not be a signatory to the full IFHA residue limit list – however it would be prudent to maintain an agreed Australian residue limit list in the interests of a national approach to residue limit screening.

It is also noted that the IFHA has previously advised Australia that both theobromine, and more recently dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), have now been removed from the list of substances to which a threshold should apply within the international rules and moved to the International Residue Limits list. Australia has responded previously by removing theobromine from Division 3 – Prohibited List B thresholds and agreeing to add theobromine to the current unofficial list of recognised residue limits. It is noted that should this ARL list be formally adopted and recognised within the rules, that DMSO should then also be removed from Division 3 – Prohibited List B thresholds.

In addition to the approval of the proposed list of ARL’s the Australian Rules should be amended to formally recognise the adoption and maintenance of this list in industry publications, in a similar approach to that taken with the adoption and maintenance of an agreed list of screening limits that apply to equine therapeutic substances. It would be proposed that the residue limits list would never contain any substances that are considered permanently banned at all times (Prohibited List A substances).”

Consultation with and by the PRA's was undertaken between May 2024 and August 2024. The PRA's have confirmed their support for these amendments.

1. Add the following to AR 2:

Australian residue limit (ARL) means the concentration of a substance of environmental origin or its specified metabolite present in a sample during a screening test or analysis as set out in AR 257B (2), above which the substance of environmental origin will be specified as a prohibited substance.

Date of effect: 1 November 2024

2. Add the new AR 257B as follows:

AR 257B Environmental substances

- (1) For analysis of an environmental substance in a sample taken at any time from a horse, there must be an initial screening test or screening analysis of the sample.
- (2) As a minimum requirement, the initial screening test or screening analysis must be conducted by an Official Racing Laboratory in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (a) the relevant biological matrix, equivalent in volume to the portion or aliquot of the sample being tested, is to have added to it a quantity of the environmental substance, sufficient to bring its concentration to the Australian Residue Limit specified for that environmental substance – this is known as the “spiked sample” and is to be analysed concurrently with the sample;
 - (b) the portion or aliquot of the sample is then to be tested to determine whether or not it contains a quantity of the environmental substance that exceeds that Australian Residue Limit, by making a direct comparison with the spiked sample;
 - (c) if the Australian Residue Limit is not exceeded, the detection of the environmental substance in the sample is not to be reported on a Certificate of Analysis;
 - (d) if the Australian Residue Limit is exceeded, then the sample is to be further tested in accordance with normal laboratory procedures designed to certify the presence of the environmental substance in the sample.
- (3) An environmental substance for the purpose of this rule and the Australian Residue Limit applicable to it, is to be approved and published from time to time by Racing Australia.
- (4) The Australian Residue Limit testing provided for in this rule is not intended to and does not operate to mean that for the purpose of the Rules the relevant environmental substance only becomes a prohibited substance if and when the Australian Residue Limit is exceeded.
- (5) It is no defence to an alleged breach of AR 240 or AR 241 that the result of any initial Australian Residue Limit test or screening analysis should have been below the Australian Residue Limit for the environmental substance in question.

Date of effect: 1 November 2024

3. Amend Division 3 – Prohibited List B thresholds as follows:

Delete subrule 3 of this division.

Date of effect: 1 November 2024

4. Amend and insert the Preamble to ARL publication and ARL Table (the preamble will precede and be the heading to the ARL Table) as follows:

For the purpose of AR 257B, it is hereby notified that Australian residue limits applicable to the following substances of environmental origin, as approved by Racing Australia, are set out as follows;

Australian Residue Limits (ARL) Table

Residue Limit Substance	Australian Residue Limit (in urine)
Caffeine	100 ng/mL
Theobromine	2000 ng/mL
Theophylline	250 ng/mL
Hyoscine (Scopolamine)	50 ng/mL in urine if atropine is present between 10 and 50ng/mL
Atropine	50 ng/mL in urine in the presence of hyoscine up to 50ng/mL
Dimethyl sulfoxide(DMSO)	15 ug/mL
Methylsulfonylmethane(MSM)	1200 ug/mL
Synephrine	500 ng/mL
Residue Limit Substance	Australian Residue Limit (in plasma)
Caffeine	20 ng/mL
Theobromine	300 ng/mL
Dimethyl sulfoxide(DMSO)	1000 ng/mL

Date of effect: 1 November 2024