

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD
TITLE 4, DIVISION 4, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS
ARTICLE 15. VETERINARY PRACTICES
NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO AMEND
RULE 1843.2 CLASSIFICATION OF DRUG SUBSTANCES

The California Horse Racing Board (Board) proposes to amend the regulation described below after considering all comments, objections, and recommendations regarding the proposed action.

PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION

The Board proposes to amend Board Rule 1843.2, Classification of Drug Substances to update the Board's Classification of Foreign Substances List (Substances List) and update the reference to the Association of Racing Commissioners International Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances (Uniform Classification Guidelines) to align with the most recent version of ARCI's Uniform Classification Guidelines.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Board has not scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action. However, the Board will hold a hearing if it receives a written request for a public hearing from any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any written persons, or their authorized representative, may submit written comments about the proposed regulatory action to the Board. The written comment period closes on **August 3, 2026**. The Board must receive all comments by that time. Submit comments to:

Chris Garmire, Regulatory Policy and Public Engagement Manager
California Horse Racing Board
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
Telephone: (297) 300-7421
E-mail: cmgarmire@chrb.ca.gov

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Authority cited: Sections 19580, 19581, and 19582, Business and Professions Code (BPC).

Reference: Sections 19580, 19581, and 19582, Business and Professions Code.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

BPC section 19580 states that the board shall adopt regulations to establish policies, guidelines, and penalties relating to equine medication in order to preserve and enhance the integrity of horse racing in the state and that it is the intention of the Legislature that the board recognize the greater importance of conducting complete and thorough testing of a lesser number of samples in preference to conducting less thorough testing on a greater number of samples.

BPC section 19581 provides that no substance of any kind shall be administered by any means to a horse after it has been entered to race in a horse race, unless the board has, by regulation, specifically authorized the use of the substance and the quantity and composition. The Board may require that the official veterinarian approve the administration of those substances in accordance with the regulations of the board. Any medication or equipment used to dispense medication that is located within the inclosure is subject to search and inspection at the request of any board official.

BPC section 19582 states that violations of section 19581 are punishable as set forth in regulations adopted by the board and that the board may classify violations of section 19581 based upon each class of prohibited drug substances, prior violations within the previous three years, and prior violations within the violator's lifetime. The Board may provide for the suspension of a license, or a monetary penalty, or both, and disqualification from purses for a violation of section 19581.

The proposed amendment modifies the Substances List revision date from February 2021 to February 2026. This is necessary to incorporate the new version of the Substances List by reference. It also modifies the referenced ARCI's Uniform Classification Guidelines from the version published in December 2020 to December 2025. This is necessary to incorporate the most recently published Uniform Classification Guidelines, which incorporates new substances that have been discovered or classified, or substances that current veterinary science and technology has suggested need reclassifying since December 2020.

The proposed amendment updates both the referenced Uniform Classification Guidelines to the most recently published version and updates the Board's Substances List to align with the newly incorporated Uniform Classification Guidelines, apart from Chorionic Gonadotropin (CG), Cobalt, Furosemide, Luteinizing Hormone (LH), Medroxyprogesterone, Ractopamine, and Zilpaterol Hydrochloride.

ANTICIPATED BENEFIT OF THE PROPOSED REGULATION

The proposed amendment to Board Rule 1843.2 will benefit the health and welfare of racehorses by incorporating the most recent Uniform Classification Guidelines. This ensures that the Board is up to date on newly discovered or reclassified drugs that are potentially harmful to horses and issues penalties for their use. This discourages the use of drugs and substances in the horses, safeguarding their health and wellbeing.

CONSISTENCY EVALUATION

Evaluation of Consistency and Compatibility with Existing State Regulations: During the process of developing regulatory action, the Board conducted a search of any similar regulations on the topic and concluded that Board Rule 1843.2 is the only regulation that concerns the Classification of Foreign Substances List.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Mandate on local agencies and districts: none.

Cost of savings to any state agency: none.

Cost to local agencies and school districts that must be reimbursed in accordance with Government Code (GC) sections 17500 through 17630: none.

Other non-discretionary costs or savings imposed upon local agencies: none.

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: none.

The Board has made an initial determination that the proposed amendment to Board Rule 1843.2 will not have a significant statewide adverse impact directly affecting business including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

The following studies/relevant data were relied upon in making the above determination: none.

RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

The adoption of the proposed regulatory action will not create or eliminate jobs within the state, will not create new businesses or eliminate existing businesses within the state, will not result in the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state, but it will benefit the health and welfare of California residents and workers safety by ensuring the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account is adequately funded to maintain the current level of safety enhancements that are in place.

Cost impact on representative private persons or businesses: The Board is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Significant effect on housing costs: None

Effect on small business: none. The proposed regulatory action does not affect small business because small businesses are not legally required to comply with or enforce the regulation and neither drive a benefit nor incur a detriment from the enforcement of the regulation. The proposed regulatory action will update the references to ARCI's Uniform Classification Guidelines and CHRB's Substances List to the most up to date version.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with GC section 11346.5, subdivision (a)(13), the Board must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Board or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the Board would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law. The Board invites interested persons to present statements or arguments with respect to alternatives to the proposed regulation at the scheduled hearing or during the written comment period.

CONTACT PERSONS

Inquiries concerning the substance of the proposed action and requests for copies of the proposed text of the regulation, the initial statement of reasons, the modified text of the regulation, if any, and other information upon which the rulemaking is based should be directed to:

Chris Garmire, Regulatory Policy and Public Engagement Manager
California Horse Racing Board
1010 Hurley Way, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95825
Telephone: (297) 300-7421
E-mail: cmgarmire@chr.ca.gov

If the person named above is not available, interested parties may contact:
Vince Somma, Chief of Board Operations
California Horse Racing Board
Telephone: (916) 752-3052
Email: vwsomma@chr.ca.gov

AVAILABILITY OF INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATION

The Board will have the entire rulemaking file available for inspection and copying throughout the rulemaking process at its office at the above address/ As of the date this notice is published in the Notice Register, the rulemaking file consists of this notice, the proposed text of the regulation, and the initial statement of reasons. Copies of these documents, or any of the information upon which the proposed rulemaking is based, may be obtained by contacting Chris Garmire or the alternative contact person at the address, phone number, or email address listed above.

AVAILABILITY OF MODIFIED TEXT

After holding a hearing and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Board may adopt the proposed regulation substantially as described in this notice. If modifications are made that are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, the modified text, with changes clearly marked, shall be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date on which the Board adopts the regulation. Requests for copies of any modified regulation should be sent to the attention of Chris Garmire at the address stated above. The Board will accept written comments on the modified regulation for 15 days after the date on which it is made available.

AVAILABILITY OF FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Requests for copies of the final statement of reasons, which will be made available after the Board has adopted the proposed regulation in its current or modified form, should be sent to the attention of Chris Garmire at the address stated above.

BOARD WEB ACCESS

The Board will have the entire rulemaking file available for inspection throughout the rulemaking process at its website. The rulemaking file consists of this notice, the proposed text of the regulation, and the initial statement of reasons. The Board's website address is www.chrb.ca.gov.