How testing works
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The 6 Steps

THE 6 STEPS PDF

THE 6 STEPS VIDEO
How Testing Works

The FEI operates an Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Programme at its events.

If a horse is selected for testing, urine and/or blood samples will be sent to one of five FEI-approved laboratories. Detection Levels for substances are set at fair and harmonised levels, which mean that samples are analysed in the same way at these laboratories.
1 Selection of Horses

There are three possible methods for selection of horses for in-competition anti-doping testing.

**MEDALLISTS**
i.e. winners in major events, medal winners and at least one horse from each medal-winning team.

**RANDOM TESTING**
i.e. using a method of random selection agreed by the officials at the event.

**TARGETED TESTING**
Where the Ground Jury specifically selects a horse for testing.

Horses can be tested several times during one event. As soon as practical after a horse is selected for testing, it is accompanied to the sampling box. Urine and blood samples are collected from each horse under the supervision of the testing officials.

ANY horse can be tested at ANY FEI event.
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- Athletes will be informed that their horses have been selected for testing.
- They must stay with the horse or arrange for a groom or other appropriate representative to be present throughout the testing procedure. Minors must be accompanied by their representative, who must be over the age of 18.
- Athletes are encouraged to be present themselves because only the person who witnesses the testing can testify about the procedures and whether they were conducted according to the rules.
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Horses can be tested several times during one event. As soon as practical after a horse is selected for testing, it is accompanied to the sampling box. Urine and blood samples are collected from each horse under the supervision of the testing officials.
Sample collection is carried out by an FEI Testing Veterinarian following a strict procedure.

The main tool is the sampling kit packed within a uniquely numbered box and containing, among other items, gloves, urine bottles with security caps, tubes and a needle for blood sampling, a security bag and bar code labels with the same unique number.

**SAMPLING PROTOCOL**
The utmost care is taken with samples during and after collection. Testing Veterinarians wear disposable gloves on each hand and only remove them when the bottles have been closed at the end of the procedure.
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SAMPLING PROTOCOL
The utmost care is taken with samples during and after collection. Testing Veterinarians wear disposable gloves on each hand and only remove them when the bottles have been closed at the end of the procedure.
Sampling Collection

Urine and blood samples are collected from each horse under the supervision of the testing officials. Every attempt should be made by the FEI Testing Veterinarian to collect first urine (picture 1) and then blood (picture 2). However, it is recognised that sometimes only a small volume of urine can be collected and, on occasions, even after 60 minutes, a horse may produce no urine. In such a case, a blood sample may be the only sample taken.

When urine is not available, only blood will be analysed. This is considered as a proper test under FEI Rules.

The collected blood and urine samples are both split into: A Sample and B Sample (picture 3).
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The collected blood and urine samples are both split into: A Sample and B Sample (picture 3).

The two samples (A and B) are sent to the same laboratory. If an A sample tests positive, the athlete can request that the analysis of the B sample takes place at a different FEI-approved laboratory. In this case, the FEI selects the second laboratory from among the FEI-approved laboratories. The choice will be based on geographic proximity, the turnover time the second laboratory can commit to and any other factors that might enhance the fair and quick evaluation of the B sample.

The B sample ensures that the Prohibited Substance detected in the A sample is unquestionably present. If the B sample is negative, the case will be dropped and no further action taken.
The FEI Testing Veterinarian completes the Testing Form and adds the necessary stamps and labels that identify the sample.

The form consists of three parts. The Testing Veterinarian must keep one part, the Person Responsible for the horse is given the second part, and the third part is placed in a small plastic bag and is sent to the MCP Laboratory with the samples. The latter part is identified by the unique number but not by the name of the Person Responsible.

A copy of the Medication Control Form is sent to the FEI.
4 Documentation

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During testing, athletes can record any complaints or suggestions on the FEI Medication Control Form that the Testing Veterinarian gives them to sign. If a horse tests positive for a Prohibited Substance, this information may become an important part of the legal case.
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The Testing Veterinarian should explain what each section of the form is for and make sure that everything written is legible and that the athlete or his/her representative signs the form in the relevant spaces.
Sample Transportation

The samples are carefully packed and placed back into the original kit box, which is closed with a sealing strip (picture 1). The kit boxes are in turn placed in an isothermal bag with ice packs (picture 2); the isothermal bag is placed in a special blue carrying bag closed with a tamper-proof security clip (picture 3). The Sample Dispatch form is filled in and faxed to the laboratory. The bag is shipped by courier to the laboratory.

The Persons Responsible (PR) or their appointed representative sign a form to certify that they have witnessed the entire procedure and have no objection to the entire procedure. If there are any concerns or complaints, the PR will have the opportunity to write them on the form.
Once the samples reach the Laboratory, the B Samples are stored securely awaiting any required testing at a later date. The A Samples (urine and/or blood) are used for the initial analysis.

The process may take anywhere between 7 and 21 days to complete. If a prohibited substance is detected, the results are promptly reported to the FEI Veterinary Department. This Department then works in cooperation with the FEI Legal Department, to examine the specifics of the case and to decide on the need for any further action.

Please note that the B sample may be confirmed through a different bodily fluid than the A sample (A sample is urine, B sample blood).
What Happens Next: Stage 1

**Stage 01** Horse is tested

**Sample is negative**
- Sample destroyed within several months depending on lab procedures unless taken at OG or WEG which may be kept for up to 8 years

**Sample is positive**
- Adverse analytical finding + substance classification
  - **Banned substance** / controlled medication at OG WEG: Regular Procedure
    - Provisional suspension
    - Preliminary hearing
    - Provisional suspension maintained
    - Provisional suspension is lifted
  - **Controlled medication**
    - Case qualifies for administrative procedure
      - PR accepts sanction end of case
      - Provisional suspension is lifted
    - Case does not qualify for administrative procedure
      - PR does not accept sanction offered
      - PR may: REQUEST B-SAMPLE ANALYSIS... GO TO STAGE 2
      - DECLINE B-SAMPLE ANALYSIS... GO TO STAGE 3
What Happens Next: Stage 2

Stage 02: PR Requests B-Sample Analysis

B-Sample Analysis
Opportunity for a different lab + analysing witness for entire process

B-Sample is Not Confirmed
Case is dropped

B-Sample is Confirmed
Administrative Procedure: PR is again offered administrative sanction

PR accepts sanction
End of case

PR declines sanction
Case is submitted to FEI Tribunal

Go to Stage 3
What Happens Next: Stage 3

**STAGE 03** FEI TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE PANEL IS CONSTITUTED

- PR and FEI may submit supportive written documentation

**PR DOES NOT REQUEST A HEARING**

**PR REQUESTS A HEARING**

- Hearing in person or by conference call, witnesses + experts may testify

FEI TRIBUNAL ISSUES FINAL WRITTEN DECISION

PR MAY APPEAL FINDINGS TO CAS