

Federal Law No. (7) of 2015
on the Combating of Substances Prohibited in Horse Racing and Equestrian
Sports

We, Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE),

Having reviewed:

- The Constitution;
- Federal Law No. 1 of 1972 on Competences of Ministries & Powers of Ministers, as amended;;
- Federal Law No. 4 of 1979 on the Suppression of Fraud and Deception in Commercial Transactions (and court judgment passed thereunder);
- Federal Law No. 3 of 1987 on the Promulgation of the Penal Code, as amended;
- Federal Law No. 35 of 1992 on the Promulgation of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as amended;
- Federal Law No. 10 of 2002 on the Practice of Veterinary Profession; and
- Federal Law No. 16 of 2007 on Animal Welfare;
- And based on the submissions of the Minister of Environment & Water, the approval of the Cabinet and the Federal National Council (FNC), and the ratification of the Federal Supreme Council (FSC),

Enacted the following Law:

Article (1)

Definitions

In application of the provisions of this Law, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context otherwise indicates:

- State** : the United Arab Emirates
- Ministry** : the Ministry of Environment & Water
- Minister** : the Minister of Environment & Water
- The Authority** : the Emirates Racing Authority ERA, formed by the Prime

Minister's Resolution No. 11 of 2006

- Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports** : any official contest or competition, whether local, regional or international, that is dedicated to horses including but not limited to dressage, horse beauty, horse speed, horse ability and endurance, show jumping and polo.
- Competent Body** : the federal or local body that is entrusted with Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports affairs in the State.
- Horses** : the horses dedicated to Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports.
- Owner** : the owner, or caregiver, of horses.
- Establishment** : any entity in the State which exercises the activity of sheltering, breeding or training of horses; involvement of horses in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports; horse feed trading; horse supplements trading; or trading of veterinary medicines and substances.
- Specialist** : the equestrian, horse trainer, horse veterinarian, technicians and workers of stables, and any other person who deals with horses for their participation in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports.
- Methods** : the electrical, mechanical, electronic and other methods and tools that affect the scores of a racing.
- Prohibited Substances** : drugs, Methods and any other prohibited substances prescribed by the Executive Regulations hereof.
- Control** : the conduction of tests; collection, processing, examination and laboratory analysis of samples; conduction of relevant investigation; and then announcement of result.
- Trading** : importing, exporting, possession, preparation, processing, manufacture, storage, packing, transportation, distribution, provision, offering or sale of, or supply a third party with, the Prohibited Substances.
- Controlled Substances** : those substances used for the treatment of horses but prohibited from being used in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports due to their effect on the scores of competitions.

Article (2)

Objectives of the Law

This Law aims to:

1. Combat the trading or use of Prohibited Substances in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports in the State.
2. Maintain a fair competition in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports; promote the principle of sportsmanship; and eliminate fraud.
3. Support and encourage researches on the combating of Prohibited Substances in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports and develop the detection of their trading and use, with the aim of maximizing the effectiveness of preventive strategies.
4. Constantly educate Owners and Specialists on the seriousness of use of Prohibited Substances.

Article (3)

Trading of Prohibited Substances & Controlled Substances

1. Prohibited Substances may not be traded in unless after procurement of the relevant license in accordance with applicable laws.
2. Controlled Substances may be traded in for use in treatment of horses, and may not be used in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports for their effect on the scores of competitions.

Article (4)

The Ministry shall grant approvals on the use of Controlled Substances for therapeutic and research purposes. The Executive Regulations hereof shall define the conditions of granting such approvals for therapeutic and research purposes, and their cancellation and durations.

Article (5)

1. The Executive Regulations hereof shall define the lists of Prohibited Substances and Controlled Substances in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports.
2. The said lists may be modified, by way of addition or removal, by a resolution to be passed by the Minister.

Article (6)

Competences of the Ministry and the Competent Body

The Ministry or the Competent Body, as applicable, shall perform the following duties:

1. Set and take procedures of Control over the trading and use of Prohibited Substances in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports whether within or outside the times of competitions.
2. Make Control over the horses participating in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports conducted in the State.
3. Establish and certify laboratories that are specialized in the examination of tests taken from horses to make sure that they have not been given any Prohibited Substances.
4. Take samples from horses and take them to certified laboratories for analysis; keep these samples safe; and announce sample results in accordance with the resolutions passed in that regard.
5. Develop a national program for the monitoring of Prohibited Substances in accordance with the requirements adopted in that regard.
6. Detect any act committed in violation of the provisions hereof or the resolutions passed hereunder, and take necessary actions against the violating entities.
7. Design and implement training and awareness programs specialized in the combating the use of prohibited substances in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports.
8. Conduct researches and studies specialized in the combating, prevention and detection of the prohibited substances in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports.
9. Exchange of experiences with organizations and institutions specialized in the combating of the prohibited substances, whether at local, regional or international level.
10. Participate in conferences, seminars and workshops specialized in the combating of the prohibited substances.
11. Receive complaints on the trading, use or attempt to use any of the prohibited substances; verify the information mentioned therein; and take necessary actions in that regard.
12. Undertake any other duty defined by the Cabinet as necessary for achieving the objectives of this Law.

Article (7)

Prohibited Acts

The following acts shall be prohibited:

1. Applying to, injecting, or attempting to apply to or inject a horse with any Prohibited Substance, by whatever means or method.
2. Using any prohibited substance without procuring the relevant license from the Ministry.
3. Disclosing by any Specialist of sample data or any information relating to the horses from which samples were taken or the names of their Owners.
4. Presence of any prohibited substance, their metabolites or markers in the sample taken from the horse's body or blood.
5. Refusing to submit a horse to testing or to sample collection for confirming that it is free of prohibited substance.
6. Refraining from providing necessary information about the place and source of the prohibited substances.
7. Manipulating, or attempting to manipulate, any of the procedures of control over the use of prohibited substances.
8. Assisting, agreeing with, inciting or covering up for the Owner with regard to any process relating to giving a horse any prohibited substance.
9. Any other act that would lead to the trading or use of prohibited substances in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports in the State.

Article (8)

Establishment Duties

The establishments operating in the field of horse-related products such as feeds, food supplements, and veterinary drugs and materials shall be committed to placing labels on these products, including their components, chemical composition, side effects and source as well as their production and expiry dates.

Article (9)

The Obligations of the Owner and the Specialist

The Owner/Specialist shall:

1. Immediately notify the Ministry or the Competent Body of the commission by any Establishment or individual of any of the prohibited acts stipulated in Article (7) hereof.
2. Take all necessary measures to prevent the use of any prohibited substance.

Article (10)

Punishments

1. Without prejudice to any severer punishment provided for in any other legislation, whoever violates any of the provisions of this Law shall be liable to a fine from twenty thousand dirhams (AED 20,000) to two hundred thousand dirhams (AED 200,000).
2. The fine stipulated in Paragraph (1) of this Article shall be doubled at a maximum of five hundred thousand dirhams (AED 500,000), in case of repeating the same violation within three years from the date of commission of the previous violation.
3. In addition to the fine stipulated in Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article, the Ministry or the Competent Body, as applicable, may take the following measures against the offender:
 - a. Ban the offender from taking part in Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports for a period of at most three years.
 - b. Ban the offender from working in the field of Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports for a period of at most three years.
 - c. Close the violating Establishment for a period of at most three years.
 - d. Cancel the license of the violating Establishment.
 - e. In case of recidivism, the offender shall be removed from the records of Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports.

Article (11)

Judicial Officer Capacity

The employees of the Ministry and the Competent Body, whose names are listed in a resolution to be passed by the Minister of Justice in coordination with the Minister, shall

have the capacity of judicial officers with respect to the detection of any act committed in violation of the provisions hereof or any resolution passed hereunder.

Article (12)

Application of Sports Competition Regulations

The punishments and measures that are stipulated in Article (10) hereof may not impede the application of the punishments prescribed in the adopted regulations of Horse Racing and Equestrian Sports.

Article (13)

Executive Regulations

Upon the Minister's proposal, and within a maximum period of six months as of the date of publication of this Law, the Cabinet shall pass the Executive Regulations of this Law.

Article (14)

Any provision stipulated in any other legislation that is inconsistent with the provisions of this resolution shall be repealed.

Article (15)

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall enter into force as of the day following the date of publication.

Khalifa Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

We passed this Law at the Presidential Palace, Abu Dhabi

On Jumada II 5, 1436 A.H.

March 25, 2015 A.D.