

## Best practice on yard

Beyond the NOPS code, best practice for the complete control of prohibited substances on yard should include:



### STABLE MANAGEMENT

- Inform staff of all possible sources of contamination;
- Forbid the consumption of food and drinks meant for human consumption in the stable;
- Require stable staff to wash their hands thoroughly after and / or use disposable gloves whilst carrying out treatment on a horse or on themselves;
- Require stable staff to declare any medications they are taking. Refer to the Drug and Alcohol Policy (NTF & NASS) July 2009;
- Empty, clean and disinfect the loose box, manger and water trough prior to the arrival of a new horse;
- Empty and decontaminate the horse box after each journey;
- Avoid mixing boxes for horses on treatment, even in the short term;
- Avoid the sharing of tack or equipment between horses.

### FEED MANAGEMENT

- Choose companies accredited to the BETA / UFAS NOPS Code;
- Keep the labels or delivery notes which state the batch numbers of the feed delivered as suppliers are obliged to keep their own samples of the batches;
- Keep samples of the feed upon delivery and keep for two months after the feed has been consumed in case of any future investigations;
- Lock the feed store when not in use;
- Never place the first aid box, material(s), equipment or grooming kit in the feed store;
- Designate one person (who is well-informed of the different contaminations risks) to prepare and distribute the feed rations;
- If the manger or feed bucket is used to administer medication, clean thoroughly after use.



Supported by



For further information about joining the scheme or to receive a full list of NOPS accredited companies, please contact:

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# THE UFAS BETA NOPS CODE



Reducing the Risk of Disqualification from Naturally Occurring Prohibited Substances in Feed





## NOPS – what are they and where do they come from?

The definition of a prohibited substance is “any substance that can exert an effect on a horse” which is a broad, all encompassing definition. A naturally occurring prohibited substance (or NOPS) is one that is either naturally present within certain ingredients or that occurs as a result of inadvertent cross contamination during processing before arriving at the feed manufacturer’s facility. The main NOPS are:

- Caffeine – Cacao and coffee
- Theobromine – Cacao and its metabolite Theophylline – Tea
- Morphine – Opium poppy, Papaver somniferum
- Hyoscine – Nightshade, Datura
- Hordenine – Germinating barley
- Bufotenine – Phalaris grasses, toads and toadstools
- Lupanine – Lupins
- Atropine – from Atropa belladonna, or deadly nightshade

Historically the principal risk has come from caffeine and theobromine, but more recently several incidences of morphine contamination of feed have occurred, coinciding with the legal commercial cultivation of morphine poppies in the UK to make medicines.



## BETA NOPS Assurance Schemes



The British Horseracing Authority’s Rules of Racing state a no threshold policy for naturally occurring substances that could affect performance, with the exception of theobromine. Whilst the risks of such an occurrence are low, the consequences can be disastrous with loss of prize money, value, earnings and prestige for owners, trainers, jockeys and feed/supplement manufacturers.

The British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) has introduced two assurance schemes designed to reduce the risk of naturally occurring prohibited substances (NOPS) in equine feeds.

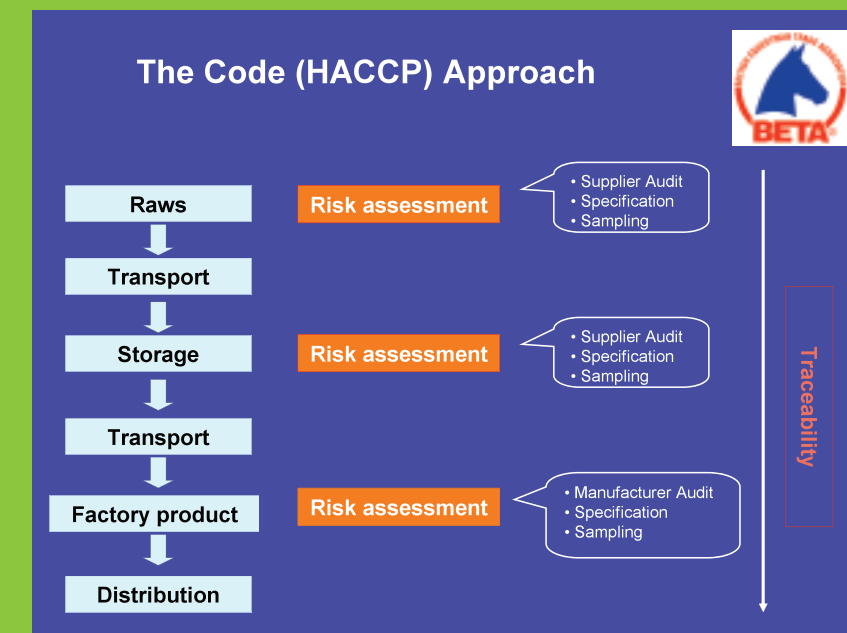
The Universal Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS), Naturally Occurring Prohibited Substances (NOPS) Code is designed for manufacturers of compound feeds, and the Feed materials Assurance Scheme (FEMAS) NOPS Code is a sister scheme designed for raw material and straights providers.

Feeds and supplements conforming to the new Codes will carry logos to reassure owners and trainers of the stringent quality management procedures that have been undertaken by manufacturers.



The BETA Codes require manufacturers to evaluate the risk of a NOPS contamination during every step of the sourcing, storage, transport and manufacturing processes for their each product, and design their quality management systems in line with the risks identified.

Suppliers of raw materials will be regularly audited and staff will also undergo rigorous training to ensure strict adherence to the Code.



The Code has been endorsed by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA). Professor Tim Morris, Director of Equine Health and Welfare of the British Horseracing Authority says of the Code: “By significantly reducing the risk of NOPS, the new Code provides important protection for those competing or racing under rules. The fact that most of the UK’s major feed manufacturers have already agreed to comply with the Code confirms its viability as a workable verification system.”

To check whether your feed company is a member, visit the NOPS section of the BETA website for an up to date list.