

NTF WEEKLY – 1 OCTOBER 2018 - (Issue 1132)

Special requests for runners at Qatar Arc Weekend

Trainers with runners over Qatar Arc de Triomphe Weekend should be aware that they must send France Galop any special requests (e.g. late load requests, leaving the paddock first or last, stall rugs, lips chains, tongue straps etc) at least by Tuesday 2nd October.

The Stewards of France Galop will examine every request and reply at least 48 hours before the final declaration. Any special requests sent later than Tuesday will not be considered.

New rule on jockeys' safety vests takes effect today

We thought it was worth a reminder that from 1st October 2018, the minimum acceptable standard for a safety vest (body protector) for race riding for jockeys of all disciplines has increased. As a result, all jockeys are required to wear the new Level 2 body protectors, rather than the Level 1 model. (This does not affect stable staff, for whom the rules have not changed.)

This change is because the Level 2 vest offers superior protection of up to 50% to the Level 1 vest against direct blows such as kicks. The relevant rule – Schedule (D)2, Equipment PART 1 – has been updated and Rule (B)22.

Weighing out procedure has also been changed to allow an increase of 1lb in the allowance at the scales when weighing out.

Help with checking accommodation offset complies with NMW/NLW

Further to our piece last week about trainers receiving correspondence from HMRC regarding the National Minimum Wage, although the racing minimum rates of pay are above the NM/LW, it is important to ensure that any deduction for accommodation does not bring the wage below the NMW.

Detailed guidance on this is available on the NTF website [here](#). This guidance explains when the employer will be considered by HMRC to be providing the accommodation and the effect on the National Minimum Wage if the employer is making deductions for gas and electricity. The Government has an [interactive calculator](#) for checking if the National Minimum Wage is being paid which includes questions about the provision of accommodation.

Update on warning to trainers about the use and possession of Regumate

On Thursday 21st September the BHA issued a second notice to trainers about the use of Regumate, which contains altrenogest. At the time of publication, the BHA obtained samples from several different batch numbers of Regumate[®] Equine 2.2mg/ml Oral Solution for Horses (MSD Animal Health) and requested analysis of these samples from LGC analytical laboratory. The results of this analysis detected the presence of trendione in the above batches of Regumate[®] Equine.

Trendione is an anabolic steroid and is a substance prohibited at all time under Schedule (G)1 of the BHA Rules of Racing. This means that possession, use or attempted use of Regumate Equine constitutes an offence under the rules of racing. Trainers are advised to remove Regumate Equine from all licensed premises and not to administer it.

We have been in touch with the BHA to ask about the BHA's approach regarding the application of the rules for any trainer that has used Regumate, given that trendione is prohibited at all times. The BHA says it will be taking "an educative approach", in other words there is no intention to instigate disciplinary measures as long as trainers take steps immediately to cease use of Regumate and dispose of any batches in their yard.

Calling all trainers to take part in a survey about recruitment, training and retention in the industry

The NTF is working with the Racing Foundation and the BHA to conduct a survey about recruitment, training and retention of staff. This is a repeat of a survey conducted in 2016, which sought to inform the development of several new services and initiatives, funded by the Racing Foundation. The survey is being repeated now to assess whether the new services and initiatives have had a positive impact and are making a difference to employers. The survey is being carried on the industry's behalf by independent research company, Public Perspectives Ltd.

All registered trainers will be contacted and asked to take part in the brief telephone survey from late October through to early December. In 2016, 80% of trainers participated and similar levels of engagement are sought this time to ensure the survey reflects the views and experience of all trainers.

Regulation deadlines

- **21st September 2018** – Regumate Equine classified as containing a substance prohibited at all times. Trainers should immediately cease use and dispose of all supplies.
- **1 October 2018** – Level 2 safety vest mandatory for jockeys for race riding
- **January 2019** – Changes to Racing Calendar and Programme Book take effect