

RCI Model Rules Committee
Petition for new rule or change to existing rule

Contact Information: Dr. Dionne Benson, Racing Medication and Testing Consortium, 821 Corporate Drive, Lexington, KY 40503, 859-224-2844

A. Brief Description of the Issue

Internationally, a urine screening limit for morphine has been in place for some time. That screening limit is 30 ng/ml. The existence of an international screening limit for morphine largely reflects the commercial poppy production in other areas of the world (there is no legal commercial poppy production in the United States).

As an international population-based screening limit exists, North America could adopt this as a threshold to maintain consistency internationally.

Any presence of free parent morphine in plasma/blood would still represent a violation. This would help protect against intentional administrations for the opioid effect.

B. Discussion of the Issue and Problem

Provide background on the issue to build context. Address the following:

- *What specific problems or concerns are involved in this issue?* This proposal is designed to create a urine threshold for morphine.
- *Who does the issue affect?* Horses, trainers, owners.
- *What existing model rules relate to this issue?* ARCI's Endogenous, Dietary, or Environmental Substances Schedule
- *Provide relevant quantitative or statistical information if possible.*

C. Possible Solutions and Impact

Provide possible recommendations to solve the problem. Include details on each proposed solution such as

- *What solution does this proposal provide?* This will ensure that North American regulations are consistent with international thresholds.
- *How will the solution fix the problem?* This will eliminate the argument that the morphine threshold should be increased as it is currently limit of detection which is below the screening limit recommended by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities
- *How will the change affect any entities or stakeholders?* It increases protection for horsemen while protecting integrity concerns.
- *How will you or your organization be affected by the proposed change?* This is a benefit to the horsemen and commissions, not the RMTC.
- *What are the benefits of the proposed change?* Increased safety factor for the horsemen, increased case defensibility for the commissions.
- *What are the possible drawbacks of the proposed change?* None known

- *Identify possible fiscal impact of the recommended change.* This may decrease litigation costs to commissions.

D. Industry Support

Please identify any affected stakeholder groups that expressed support or opposition.

This was passed unanimously by RMTC board members.

E. Proposed Model Rule language

Attach the model rule language you are proposing.

Substance	Threshold	Reason for Threshold
Morphine	30 ng/ml total morphine in urine	Feed Contaminant

F. Similar State Rules

Do any racing jurisdictions currently have a version of this rule in effect?

Many international jurisdictions have adopted this as a screening limit

G. Review and Identification of affected Model Rules

Review the RCI Model Rules and identify any other Model Rules this change would affect and submit proposed amendments to those rules to comply with changes that would be made by this proposal.

None.