



State of Indiana Indiana Horse Racing Commission

Michael R. Pence, Governor

www.in.gov/hrc

**For Immediate Release
January 12, 2015**

Indiana Regulation Substantially Cuts Cobalt Abuse

A Staff Report on the results of testing under Indiana's first-in-the-nation cobalt regulation shows substantial decreases in cobalt abuse. The report was released by Commission Executive Director, Joe Gorajec.

Indiana's emergency cobalt regulation was promulgated by the Indiana Horse Racing Commission on September 4, 2014 after an emerging threat was discovered last summer. During the summer months, 354 samples from twenty-three (23) days of racing were tested at the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. During this pre-regulation period, 5.9% of samples indicated cobalt concentrations in excess of 25 ppb (parts per billion).

The results show an 83% decline in cobalt concentration over the regulatory threshold of 25 ppb (parts per billion) since the effective date of the regulation. The most significant finding is the virtual elimination of cobalt levels over 100 ppb. Overall, cobalt abuse at these very high levels dropped 96.8 % and disappeared completely in both standardbreds and thoroughbreds.

The tables below compare the pre-regulation period with the regulated period.

UNREGULATED Summer 2014			
Breed	# of Horses	# of Samples >100 ppb	%
SB	180	5	2.8%
TB	127	3	2.4%
QH	47	3	6.4%
TOTAL	354	11	3.1%

REGULATED Sept. 30, 2014 – Nov. 15, 2014			
Breed	# of Horses	# of Samples >100 ppb	%
SB	505	0	0%
TB	309	0	0%
QH	65	1	1.5%
TOTAL	879	1	0.1%

“I am glad to see that the commission’s proactive efforts have resulted in a cleaner racing product for our fans and horsemen,” said Joe Gorajec.

Test results during the regulated period indicate that across all breeds, the median cobalt concentration was 3.0 ppb and that 93% of all horses tested less than 10 ppb. The breakdown of these metrics by breed and the results of every test can be found in the full report at <http://www.in.gov/hrc>.

The Indiana Horse Racing Commission would like to thank the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and LGC Science, Inc. for their efforts - without which this program would not be possible.

For more information contact Joe Gorajec at jgorajec@hrc.in.gov.