



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
THE NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY FOR EQUESTRIAN SPORT
EQUINE DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS PROGRAM

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 9, 2009
To: UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP
From: Stephen A. Schumacher, DVM
Subject: NOTICE TO MEMBERS REGARDING LINIMENTS
Phone: (800) 633-2472

Recently, there have been some questions related to the use of liniments. The specific liniments in question are:

Equi-Block® Liniments by Miracle Corp.

Ingredients:

Menthol (3%), Purified Water, Isopropyl Alcohol, **Chamomile Extract**, Polysorbate 80, Olibanum Extract, **Rosemary Oil**, **Capsicum Oleoresin**, Carbomer, Trolamine, Methylparaben.

Thermafex Liniment Gel by VitaFlex®

Ingredients:

Menthol 4.0%, Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM), **Plant Extracts of Calendula and Rosemary**, **Oil of Cajuput (Melaleuca Leucadendron)**, Other Ingredients include: Alcohol, Water, Thickeners, Benzyl Nicotinate, FD&C Yellow #5 and FD&C Blue #1.

Vetrolin® Liniment by Farnam

Ingredients: Alcohol, Water, Green Soap, **Camphor**, **Oil of Sassafras**, **Oil of Spike**, Methyl Salicylate, **Oil of Cedarwood**, **Oil of Rosemary** and **Oil of Thyme**.

(Forbidden substances noted in **red**.)



Member, U.S. Olympic Committee

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The classification of these substances as Forbidden is neither a new policy nor a recent development. Some of the ingredients in the above listed liniments have been Forbidden substances for more than 20 years. These substances, and products containing them, are classified as Forbidden because of their potential actions on various body systems when administered intravenously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, or orally. However, when used topically and as recommended by their manufacturers, these products have not been associated with a positive by the Federation.

As a practical matter, provided the products containing these substances are administered only topically and as recommended by the manufacturer, there is no need for restricting their use during competitions under USEF rules. However, if these substances are used inappropriately e.g., in a manner other than topically, this could result in a positive finding in the blood or urine of the horse, which would be a potential violation of the rules.

One exception is the substance **capsaicin** and closely related analogues (ex. **Capsicum Oleoresin** as found in Equi-Block®.) There were four drug violations associated with the detection of capsaicin in the blood following topical administration at the 2008 Olympic Games. Neither of these substances or other capsaicin derivatives should be used topically in any poultice or liniment within the 7 days preceding competition.

It is important to note that many preparations produced for the equine market routinely have their formulations changed without any published notice. It is for this reason that the USEF Equine Drugs and Medications Program typically does not comment on products by name, but requests lists of ingredients. It would be irresponsible for the USEF to list name brand products as Forbidden or Permitted as there is no control or notification of changes in their ingredients.

Please contact the Equine Drugs and Medications Program office by phone (800) 633-2472 or by email: medequestrian@aol.com if there are any questions regarding additional liniments than those addressed above.