Laboratory Accreditation

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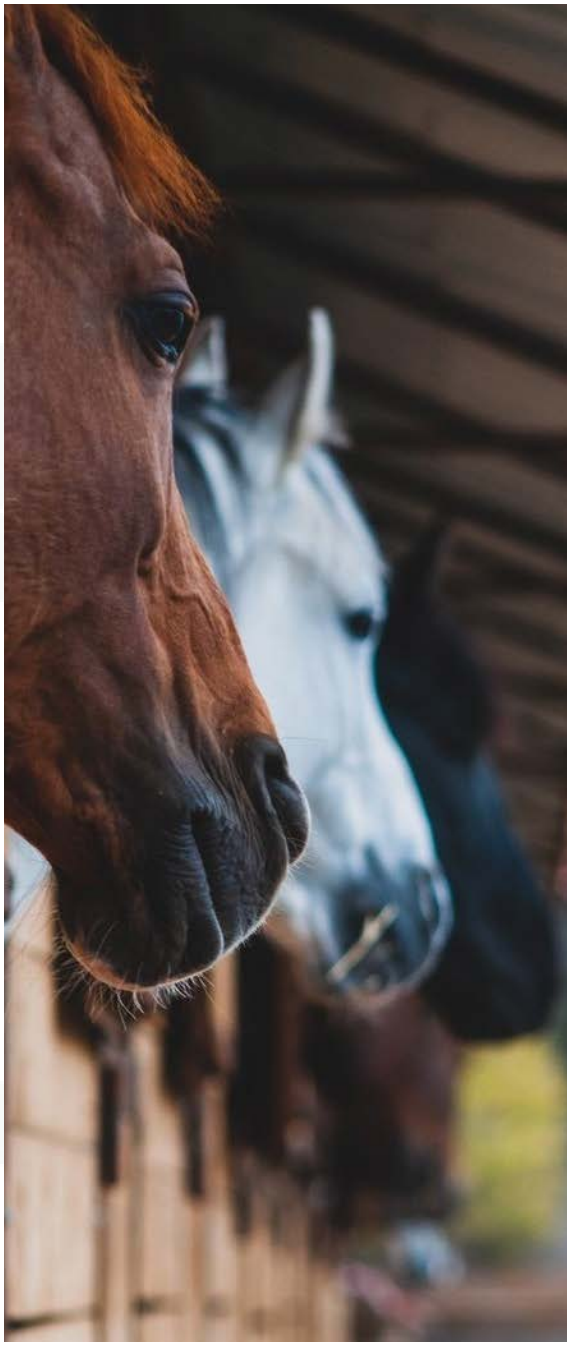
What Is It And Why Does It Matter?

Laboratory accreditation is earned after a laboratory is subjected to external, third-party review of its procedures and protocols and has met established standards. Accreditation status is not permanent; laboratories must undergo regular assessments to maintain accreditation.

Accreditation is the foundation for consistency among laboratories and uniformity in enforcement of regulations. There are several types of accreditation that a laboratory can achieve:



1. International Standards Organization (ISO) 17025 Accreditation

- This is the first level of accreditation for a laboratory and is a prerequisite for additional accreditations.
- ISO 17025 accreditation verifies that the laboratory has documented procedures that establish a consistent process from receipt of samples to the issuance of reports.
- The accreditation process involves reviewing laboratory documents, including Standard Operating Procedures manuals, as well as site visits to verify information provided in the laboratory's application.
- ISO17025 accreditation does not establish analytical performance requirements (e.g., testing sensitivity) and does not evaluate laboratory performance with respect to racing regulations.

2. Racing Medication & Testing Consortium (RMTC) accreditation

- ISO 17025 accreditation is a prerequisite to apply for RMTC laboratory accreditation.
- As part of RMTC accreditation, laboratories are required to meet performance specifications established by the RMTC that are consistent with the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) Model Rules or HISA's Anti-Doping & Medication Control (ADMC) Program regulations.

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- Laboratories are required to successfully analyze monthly distributions of single-blind samples identified as External Quality Assurance Samples. Specific drugs have been added to these samples, and the laboratories must identify the substance(s) present in the sample. The single-blind program identifies the laboratories' testing capabilities.
- On the other hand, double-blind samples, which are also modified through the addition of specific drug(s), are submitted to the laboratory with sample sets from racetrack test barns. These samples are indistinguishable from official samples collected from Covered Horses. The double-blind program assesses the laboratory's testing of routine samples.
- Laboratories will participate in a passed sample exchange program in which samples identified as Negative by one laboratory will be distributed to another lab for analysis. The identification of any discrepancies will inform the RMTC where methodologies need to be harmonized in support of uniform testing across all laboratories.
- HISA has assigned RMTC-accredited laboratories interim accreditation status to test samples under the ADMC Program until the HISA Equine Analytical Laboratory (HEAL) accreditation program is implemented, which will not occur before 2024.

3. HEAL Accreditation

- The HEAL accreditation program is under development consistent with Rules 6110 - 6140 of the Equine Standards for Laboratories and Accreditation.
- It will build on the foundations of ISO 17025 and RMTC accreditation as it moves testing laboratories towards harmonization of methodolgies and sensitivites accross the spectrum of Prohibited Substances.

* Please be advised that the responsibilities and requirements set forth above are contained in the Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program regulations submitted by the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). These regulations were approved by the FTC on March 27, 2023. The information enclosed herein is not exhaustive, and more information can be found by consulting the approved regulations, which were posted to the Federal Register on January 26, 2023.

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