

## **Stakeholder Notice regarding meat contamination**

On [16 May 2019](#), the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) Foundation Board decided to amend [Article 7.4 of the World Anti-Doping Code \(Code\)](#) to allow WADA-accredited Laboratories (Laboratories) to report Atypical Findings (ATFs) for the Prohibited Substance clenbuterol.

Under the current version of Article 7.4 of the Code, Laboratories may only report analytical testing results for exogenous Prohibited Substances as Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs) but not as ATFs, which does not allow for investigations to take place when potential meat contamination scenarios arise – as has been the case with clenbuterol. As such, if the current Code is strictly followed, Anti-Doping Organizations (ADOs) are required to assert an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) against the athlete if the B sample results confirm the A sample findings (or the athlete waives the analysis of their B sample).

The purpose of this amendment – which will come into force on 1 June 2019 and is an interim solution until the 2021 Code and the forthcoming International Standard for Results Management (ISRM) come into effect – is to provide ADOs with the possibility of conducting an investigation when low concentrations of identified Prohibited Substances that are known meat contaminants are detected by Laboratories and reported as ATFs. This will ensure that valid meat contamination cases are dealt with fairly and, notably, may prevent athletes from having their competition results disqualified as a result of eating contaminated meat.

Following this amendment to Article 7.4 of the Code, WADA is pleased to publish the present Stakeholder Notice regarding Meat Contamination (Notice) and, specifically, instructions for the investigation and management of potential meat contamination cases.

### **Instructions to Laboratories and Investigative Steps for ADOs**

#### **a. Application**

Laboratories shall report ATFs for concentrations of clenbuterol below 5ng/mL and AAFs for concentrations of clenbuterol equal to or above 5ng/mL.

#### **b. Investigative Steps**

When an ADO with results management authority receives a report for an ATF from a Laboratory for clenbuterol, it shall follow the investigative steps indicated below:

1. Ask the athlete whether they were recently in Mexico, China or Guatemala and if so, whether they ate meat (including the type of meat, when and where it was eaten, and the quantity consumed). Although it is not expected that all athletes will recollect all of these facts perfectly, the ADO will evaluate the athlete's explanation and any evidence tendered to corroborate this explanation;

2. If the ADO is satisfied that the athlete recently ate meat in Mexico, China or Guatemala, it must then evaluate whether the analytical result is consistent with the consumption of meat estimated by the athlete by considering the excretion properties of the substance as described in the scientific literature. The ADO should also consider whether the athlete recently provided other samples to rule out the possibility that the low level of clenbuterol detected is not the result of the tail end of the excretion of the substance as a result of the previous use of a performance-enhancing dose;
3. If, following the steps described above, the ADO is satisfied that the athlete's ATF resulted from meat contamination, it shall not assert an ADRV and no consequences shall be imposed. However, this decision remains subject to appeal by any party with a right to appeal pursuant to Article 13 of the Code; and
4. If, following the investigation as described above, the ADO concludes that the ATF was not consistent with meat contamination, an ADRV will be asserted and the usual results management process will proceed.

In the event that WADA identifies in the future other exogenous Prohibited Substances that are known meat contaminants, it may update this Notice accordingly.

We trust that the instructions found in this Notice and the amendment to Article 7.4 of the Code will assist ADOs faced with potential clenbuterol meat contamination cases and will ensure that cases are managed fairly for all athletes.