



AGCO

Alcohol and Gaming
Commission of Ontario

MICROCHIPPING AND TEMPERATURE CHECKS (Standardbred Racehorses)

INFORMATION SHEET FROM THE ALCOHOL AND GAMING COMMISSION OF ONTARIO



Photo © 2018 John Watkins

Effective January 2019, all horses are to be identified with a microchip, as per Standardbred Canada's Microchipping Guideline, Policy and Regulation.

In light of this new identification method and the fact that this technology is also capable of reading a horse's temperature, the AGCO has introduced rule changes to further support the health and welfare of Standardbred racehorses.

Checking a racehorse's temperature assists with the monitoring of its health, therefore, the AGCO has issued **Standardbred Directive No. 2-2018 - Association Requirement to Provide Microchip Identifier/ Temperature Reader.**

This Directive states that all tracks conducting Standardbred racing are required to have and provide in the paddock, equipment (and backup equipment) capable of scanning identifying microchips and reading temperatures in racehorses.

Any horse with a temperature of 39.0 degrees Celsius or greater should not race until an Official Veterinarian or Commission Veterinarian has examined the horse (which shall include taking the horse's temperature rectally) and found them fit to race.

During times of high infectious disease risk temperatures may be required *prior* to entry into the paddock, by order of the Racing Officials.

The AGCO will be monitoring the accuracy of the scanning instruments together with the number of horses identified as having temperatures of 39° or more as this technology is being introduced.

Notwithstanding the new Directive, trainers are reminded that it is their responsibility to only bring healthy horses to the paddock.

The Directive may be found on the AGCO website at www.agco.ca.

The Standardbred Canada guidelines are available at www.standardbredcanada.ca.

For more information, please contact AGCO Veterinary Services at 1-855-261-6821.