



Change to the WADA Prohibited List from September 2014

WADA has confirmed an amendment to Section S2.1 of the 2014 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods will take effect on September 1, 2014.

Hypoxia-Inducible Factor (HIF) activators Xenon and Argon will be added to the 2014 Prohibited List, after the recommendation was made and approved by WADA's Executive Committee during its May 2014 meeting.

Having recently been alerted to the substance of Xenon and its potential performance enhancing characteristics, the WADA List Committee discussed the matter during its April meeting and recommended namely adding the two noble gases – Xenon and argon – on the Prohibited List.

The change will be effective following the required three-month notice period, and once UNESCO has appropriately communicated the amendment to all States Parties. The revised 2014 Prohibited List will take effect on September 1, 2014.

What is Xenon Gas?

Xenon gas is a member of the periodic table it makes up a very small proportion of the atmosphere. In some countries xenon gas has been used as an anaesthetic. It is also thought to protect body tissues from the effects of low temperatures, lack of oxygen and physical trauma; in particular it increases the levels of EPO.

Xenon works by activating the production of a protein called Hif-1 alpha. This acts as a transcription factor: a chemical switch that turns on production of a variety of other proteins, one of which is EPO.

The revised 2014 Prohibited List can be found on WADA's website (www.wada-ama.org). As none of the products affected are medicinal products marketed in Ireland, there will be no material change to any product listed in MIMS or on the Eirpharm.com website, where athletes can check the status in sport of any medicine marketed in Ireland.