

What is HEAL?

Launched on January 1, 2025, HEAL is the national laboratory accreditation program established by HISA's Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMC) Program.

HEAL, which is overseen by HIWU, builds on the foundations of the ISO 17025 and Racing Medication & Testing Consortium accreditation models.

Laboratories must be accredited by HEAL to conduct testing under HISA's ADMC Program.

What are the benefits of HEAL?

Laboratory harmonization, resulting in fairness for all horsemen: all Program laboratories able to test for the same substances at the same levels.

Coordinated research efforts and communication among laboratories, enabling them to share testing methods and identify potential threats to safety, welfare, and integrity.

What quality assurance measures are in place to ensure Program laboratories maintain HEAL's standards?

HEAL requires a robust External Quality Assessment Scheme (EQAS).

Single-blind testing:

samples identified as quality assurance samples and sent to Program laboratories for analysis. The laboratory does not know what is in the sample or the concentrations of the substance(s) present.

Double-blind testing:

samples that look like real Program samples are added to batches of racetrack samples and sent to the laboratory for analysis. The laboratory does not know that it has received a quality assurance sample, what is in the sample, or the concentrations of the substance(s) present.

Passed sample exchange program:

Program samples that have been reported as negative by one laboratory will be sent to other laboratories to be re-analyzed.

Each year, the EQAS will consist of a minimum of:

	
15	5
Single-blind Samples	Double-blind Samples

What is the Laboratory Expert Group?

The independent Laboratory Expert Group was established to help oversee the accreditation process and is required by the ADMC Program Rules.

Members of the Group offer a range of expertise, including human and equine anti-doping, laboratory operations, and quality assurance management.

The Group evaluates the performance of Program laboratories, in addition to providing HIWU with advice and recommendations regarding the overall management of HEAL accreditation and the Equine Laboratory Standards included in the ADMC Program Rules.

