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FIS MEDIA INFO

Statement about the investigation of the positive A and negative B samples

In an A sample collected on 15th January 2005 at a FIS Cross-Country Skiing World Cup competition in Nove Mesto (CZE), the diuretic furosemide was detected in the WADA accredited Doping Control Laboratory in Cologne. The counter analysis of the B-sample, carried out on the 8th February 2005 in the same laboratory, did not confirm this result. Reanalyses of both samples in the WADA accredited doping control laboratory in Rome led to the same results.

The Cologne Doping Control Laboratory, which has analysed diuretics since 21 years, reported that it has never observed comparable adverse findings for furosemide in corresponding A- and B-samples. Further investigations have been carried out to find out:

1. If the A-sample and B-sample are from different sources
2. If activities of micro-organisms led to a degradation of furosemide in the B-sample
3. If furosemide was admixed to the A-sample

The investigations included e.g. search for metabolites and degradation products of furosemide in A- and B-sample, DNA-analyses of A- and B-sample, micro-biological investigation of A- and B-sample, evaluation of steroid profiles of the athlete (longitudinal study) etc.

Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Schänzer, head of the WADA accredited Cologne Doping Control Laboratory, has informed FIS and WADA that the results of the further investigations confirmed that A- and B-samples originate from the athlete and are aliquots of the same urine sample.

In regard to possible degradation, no micro-organisms were identified, nevertheless the visual inspection showed differences between A- and B-samples. A possible indol derivative in the A-sample was not present in the B-sample. Concerning the possible effects of a chemical manipulation of the urine sample on furosemide the laboratory has no data.

Based on the results, it cannot clearly be proven whether furosemide detected in the A-sample was metabolized by the body of the athlete or not. During the investigation no furosemide glucuronide (metabolite) was identified. The detection of a degradation product in the A-sample does not prove whether furosemide has passed the body or not, because the origin of this degradation product is unclear.

As to the case of whether furosemide was added to the A-sample, several scenarios (e.g. furosemide was added only to the A-sample; furosemide was added to the urine collection vessel before the division of the urine sample into A- and B-sample, etc.) were investigated, but with inconclusive results.

Regarding the possibility of manipulation during the sample collection, the report of the Doping Control Officer who conducted the control in Nove Mesto stated that the procedures were in full compliance with the International Standards for Doping Controls and no incident or occurrence was observed.

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For further information see <http://www.fis-ski.com/data/document/info-vittoz.pdf>
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