



30 July 2010

## DOPING VIOLATION

### EPO importation by cyclist Jules Amos delivers a two-year sports ban

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) today welcomed the decision of Cycling Australia to impose a two-year period of ineligibility on cyclist, Jules Amos, for the importation of Erythropoietin (EPO).

The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service intercepted five airmail packages from Thailand between 18 and 28 December 2008 and notified ASADA.

ASADA investigated and laboratory analysis confirmed that the substance contained in the vials was EPO.

EPO is a naturally occurring hormone produced by the kidney that promotes the formation of red blood cells in the bone marrow. Athletes in endurance sports have misused artificial EPO as a performance-enhancing substance. The abuse of EPO is dangerous as it can lead to blood thickening, which increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Under the World Anti-Doping Agency's 2010 Prohibited List, EPO is prohibited at all times (both in- and out-of-competition).

Mr Amos will be ineligible to participate as an athlete or support person in sport until 13 July 2012.

ASADA's partnership with Customs and Border Protection is vital in catching doping cheats who would not be detected through traditional testing alone.

Any Australian can play their part and stamp out doping by confidentially reporting suspicious doping activity to 13 000 ASADA (13 000 27232).

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Media contact: 0418 450 113

