

Saddlery Inspections

Rules and Procedures
for Ring Stewards
to conduct Saddlery
Inspections in Dressage
classes at USEF/USDF
competitions

March 2013

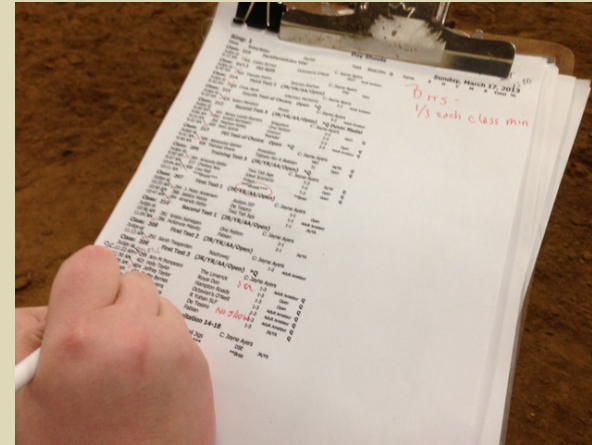


Northern Ring at 2012 Lexington Spring Dressage



Saddlery Inspections

- Competition management must appoint a sufficient number of ring stewards to carry out the following duties:
- Communicate with the warmup steward and announcer, so that competitors can be kept informed as to who is “on deck” and whether the ring is running on time.
- Check saddlery and equipment, and the horse, after the specified number of rides.
- Inform judges of any delays or other concerns.
- Radio for help for ring repairs or emergencies, as directed according to the Accident Preparedness Plan.
- Depending on the layout, number of rings and other factors, more than one ring steward may be appointed to share these duties.



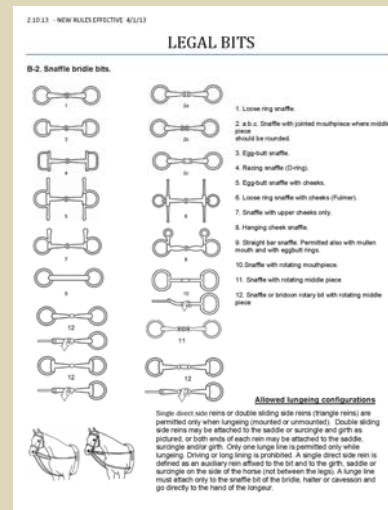
Saddlery Inspections

- Ring stewards must check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs on both sides of the horse for at least one-third of the horses in each class.
- In some classes, inspection is required for each horse.
- Inspection of saddlery and bits should be done at the direction of the Technical Delegate.



Saddlery Inspections

- Management must provide (preferably latex free) disposable protective gloves, at least one per horse. (While one glove is required for USEF competitions, two are required for FEI competitions – and two are recommended for USEF competitions.)
- The rider should see the inspector put on a fresh glove. Inspection is done immediately after the performance ride.
- At no time should the horse, spurs or other equipment be touched with an “ungloved” hand, as the glove provides protection against the spread of disease.
- Used gloves should immediately be discarded and the inspector should use a disinfectant if her skin contacts saliva or sweat.
- Management or the TD should provide the ring steward with illustrations of legal bits and equipment.



Saddlery Inspections

- The Technical Delegate may ask the steward to check every horse, especially if it is a Junior/Young Rider/FEI Pony Rider or Young Horse Qualifier.
- Make sure you have plenty of gloves, and that the Technical Delegate will have a radio and is easy to reach. It is also advisable to get the cell phone number of the TD in case he/she cannot be reached on the radio.



Saddlery Inspections

- The checking of the bit and bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths. The inspector should be “horse-friendly”.
- The bit inspection should be done quickly and efficiently in order not to disturb the horse. Inspection of the bit is done both visually and by running one gloved finger over the contour of the bit inside the horses’ mouth to the center link.
- When inspecting the bit, pay attention to the corners of the horse’s mouth. Blood or pink, fresh bruising is cause to call the Technical Delegate and keep the horse at the inspection station until the TD’s arrival.



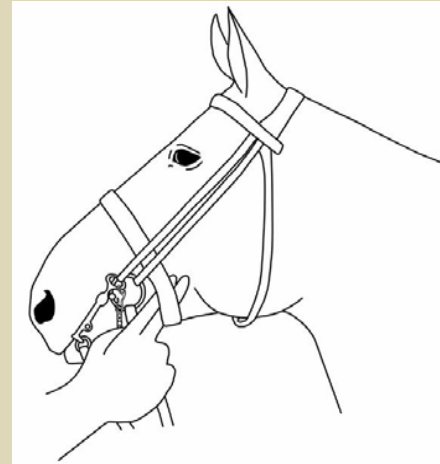
Saddlery Inspections

- The inspector should stand at the side of the horse, not in front, when checking the bit.
- After checking one side of the bit, immediately check the other side of the bit.
- If the drop or flash noseband needs to be loosened in order to properly check the bit, it should be done after the tightness of the noseband has been checked. This allows the horse to open the mouth – it's much easier to see the bit. The groom or rider should adjust the tack.



Saddlery Inspections

- Check the tightness of the noseband before moving to the spur and the area of skin next to the spur.
- At any level of competition, a cavesson or both parts of a flash noseband may never be so tight that it causes severe irritation to the skin.
- It should be adjusted to allow at least two fingers under the noseband on the side of the face under the cheekbone.
- If the rider is carrying a whip, the length should be checked after inspection of the horse, saddlery and spurs (see page 13).



Saddlery Inspections

- Run your gloved hand over the skin around the spur area. If there is any blood and/or fresh pink bruising, immediately call the Technical Delegate. The horse should be kept at the inspection station until the TD's arrival.
- It's handy to have a small piece of white paper towel to wipe over the wound and keep evidence of blood, which you can keep in a glove until the TD arrives.
- Inspect the spur and skin first on one side and then the other.



Evidence of blood is cause for elimination

Saddlery Inspections

- Spurs must be made of metal. The shank must point down or out from the center of the spur.
- The inside arm of the spur must be smooth. One or both arms may have rubber covers. Metal spurs with hard round plastic knobs on the shank are allowed as are “dummy” spurs that do not have a shank. Armless “Smart Clix” spurs are also permitted.



Not Legal – spur above is upside down or pointed up.



The spur to the left is a variation of the “Impuls” spur and is legal in USEF competitions.



All other spurs on this page are legal.



Saddlery Inspections

- If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. The pair pictured on the boot are smooth/blunt, the long spikes are not.



The spur above has small “pizza cutter” rowels, but if they are not sharp to the touch, they may be permitted.



Daisy rowels (above) are legal



Armless “Smart Clix” spurs are legal



Offset spurs and spike rowels are not legal



Saddlery Inspections

- FEI Pony Riders may wear only blunt metal spurs with no rowels, no longer than 3.5 cm.
- Check both boots. If the rider has dismounted, they still must be checked.



The spur above is too long for use by riders in FEI Pony Tests.



Saddlery Inspections

- One whip may be carried in most classes except for USEF and USDF Championships. The maximum whip length is 47.2 inches or 120cm, including lash.
- The maximum whip length for FEI Pony Rider Tests is 39.36 inches or 100cm, including lash.
- Adjustable length whips are not permitted.
- Show management or the TD should mark a fence or post so you can measure whips or provide you with a measuring tube or tape measure with both inch and centimeter markings.



Whip is under 120 cm



Whip is over 120 cm

Saddlery Inspections

- All Riders must wear protective headgear and the harness must be secured and properly fitted at all times when mounted.
- Riders cannot start to detach the harness or remove their helmet until they have dismounted.



Not allowed!!



Correct procedure

Saddlery Inspections

- If the horse is excited, and resisting the bit check, you should not let the horse go unchecked.
- Another steward or the Technical Delegate should be called to follow the horse back to the stable and check the equipment and the horse.



Saddlery Inspections

Snaffle bits used in tests through Fourth Level:

- Snaffle bits must be smooth with a solid surface. A mouthpiece with more than one rolling part is prohibited.
- Bits may be made with a rubber or plastic covering, but the bit may not be modified by adding latex or other material.
- Bits with mouthpieces made of synthetic material are permitted, provided that the contours of the bit conform to the contours of one of the bits pictured in DR 121 Figure 1A. Flexible rubber or synthetic mouthpieces are permitted.
- The mouthpiece of a snaffle may have up to two joints. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link of a double jointed bit. The center link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece but must have rounded edges.
- A double jointed bit or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief.



All bits on this page are legal for use as a snaffle in tests through Fourth Level. The bit on the bottom left has a shaped mouthpiece well under the 30 mm maximum, as compared to a similar bit on the next page.

Saddlery Inspections



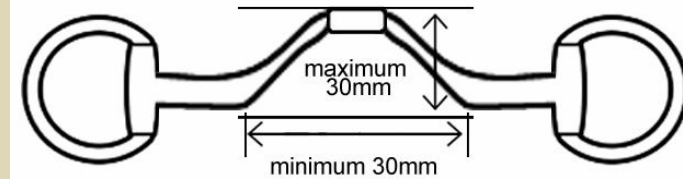
All bits on this page are NOT legal.
Clockwise from top: (1) Dr. Bristol, (2)
Golden Wings snaffle, (3) wire coils on
mouthpiece, (4) Center link has port
just over 30mm in height.



Saddlery Inspections

Acceptable height and width dimensions for a double jointed bit or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece that is shaped to allow tongue relief:

- The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation.
- The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30 mm.
- The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve within the dimensions specified in the illustration, but other ported snaffles are prohibited.



Saddlery Inspections

Bridoon, Curb and Snaffle bits used in FEI tests and optional in Third-Fourth Levels:

- Bits must be smooth with a solid surface. Bits (including curb and/or bridoon bits of a double bridle) must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber (in manufactured state); flexible rubber bits are not permitted.
- The type of bit should not vary from those pictured in DR121 Figure 1 B1 and B2, except where specified, and bits should be attached only as pictured in diagram.
- FEI Level horses may be warmed up only in a double bridle (with both bit and/or bridoon made of metal or rigid plastic) or a metal or rigid plastic snaffle pictured under Figure 1B.
- A cavesson, dropped, crossed or flash noseband is allowed when a snaffle bridle is used in warmup or competition, except as prohibited for some tests.



All bits shown are legal



Rotating lever shank



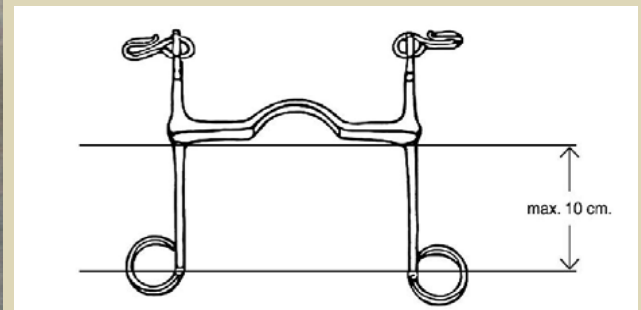
Swivel curb shank

Saddlery Inspections

- The diameter of the snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece must be at least 10mm at the rings or cheeks of the mouthpiece (except for ponies when the diameter can be less).
- The diameter of the curb must be a minimum of 12mm, and the snaffle used in Young Horse classes a minimum of 14mm.
- The lever arm of the curb bit is limited to ten centimeters (10 cm) (length below the mouth piece). The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek.
- The curb “chain” can be made of metal, leather or rubber with or without curb chain hooks. Curb chain hooks can be fixed or not fixed.



Bit mouthpieces suspected of being too thin can only be measured once the bridle is removed from the horse. The fixed curb chain hook shown on this page and loose curb chain hooks on this and previous page are all legal.

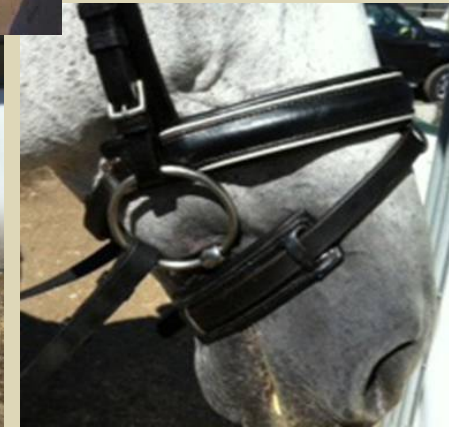
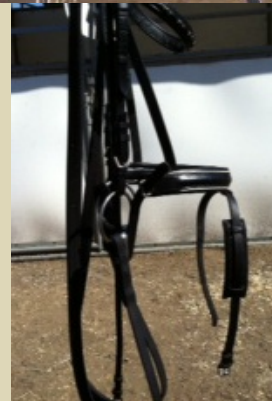


Saddlery Inspections

- Padded cavesson/nosebands and crownpieces are allowed. Cavesson nosebands may be used with a chin pad.
- Headstall and cavesson/noseband must be entirely leather or leatherlike except for buckles.
- Decoration on browbands is permitted.



Bridle to left is not legal – noseband has metal decoration



Saddlery Inspections

- An English type saddle with stirrups is compulsory except for FEI tests. It may be constructed with or without a tree, and cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet.
- Australian, Baroque, Endurance McClellan, Spanish, Stock or Western are not permitted.
- English or safety stirrups without attachments are required.
- FEI tests must be ridden in a Dressage saddle.



Permitted except for FEI tests



Required for FEI tests

Saddlery Inspections

- Saddle pads are optional, but must be white or conservative color.
- Logos on saddle pads are allowed but limited to sponsor, breed, national flags, club/ business/ farm, USEF or USDF.
- Maximum size of logo: 200 cm²



Saddlery Inspections

- Be sure to look over saddlery used for the particular test and observe that all items of tack are permitted.
- For example, Rein additions or attachments aren't allowed, but this is something that the judge may not see and only the ring steward can determine.



Rein attachments and the curb bit above are not legal. Elastic inserts that are part of a continuous rein, as shown below, are legal. The breastplate in the bottom left photo is legal for USEF but not FEI competitions.



Saddlery Inspections

- Fly hoods/ear covers may be used in outdoor competitions but they cannot cover horse's eyes.
- After the test, the rider or his representative must remove hood for inspection by the ring steward.
- The steward must check that the fly hood/ear cover is not used for masking noise canceling earplugs, which are not allowed.
- Fly masks are not permitted.



Ear muffs, masks, plugs and pompoms are not legal. Ear covers (3 photos on left) are allowed in outdoor competitions.

Saddlery Inspections

- When a communicable disease has been diagnosed in a state where horses in the show have originated, your show may have permission from USEF to implement an alternative saddlery inspection procedure where there is no physical contact by show personnel with any horse. Visual inspection of saddlery and equipment is recommended vs. the normal inspection protocol.
- As an added precaution, some shows may also implement other biosecurity procedures designed to provide additional safeguards to the health of horses on the show grounds.
- Show management and the TD will brief stewards on specific procedures required by USEF and the show when visual inspection is permitted by USEF.

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION : 4047 IRON WORKS PARKWAY, LEXINGTON, KY 40511-8483 : WWW.USEF.ORG



March 15, 2013

Notice to Dressage and Eventing Competition Managers and Officials

from the USEF Communications Department

As a result of recent confirmed diagnosis of Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV-1) in multiple states, the use of alternative saddlery inspection procedures is recommended for Dressage and the dressage phase of Eventing competitions in states where the respective State Department of Agriculture has confirmed diagnosis of EHV-1 in the state or the competition has entries traveling from a state where there has been confirmed diagnosis of EHV-1.

Competitions following the approved modified inspection protocol described below must provide a written statement from the State Veterinarian's office confirming the diagnosis of EHV-1 in the state at the time of the competition (or from a state from which an entry is originating) to the Technical Delegate of the competition and it must be included in the TD Report to the Federation office. Use of the modified inspection protocol at any competition must be reported on the TD Report Form.

Saddlery inspection protocol is defined in DR121.9 for Dressage Competitions and in EV115.4 for Eventing Competitions. The approved modified inspection protocol follows:

For both Dressage and dressage portions of Eventing competitions, stewards should conduct a visual check of the horses, without touching the horse or any equipment.

- For Eventing, a steward must be available at designated times so that competitors (if requested by the steward) may bring their bridle and equipment for further inspection once removed from the horse.
- For Dressage competitions, the visual inspection must be upon completion of the respective ride and the entire bit and other saddlery and equipment must be visually inspected for at least one-third of the horses in a class. Stewards must be assigned to the stables and day parking areas to conduct these visual inspections once bridle have been removed.

Competition managers should consult with their State Veterinarian's Office on additional recommended precautions that should be taken at their competition. Competitors and Officials must resume normal protocol for saddlery and equipment inspections when the State Veterinarian's Office confirms there is no current diagnosis of the virus at the time of their competition. Saddlery and equipment inspections are required as described in DR 121.9 and EV115.4 for all Dressage and Eventing competitions in states where there is not confirmed diagnosis of EHV-1.

The apparent increased frequency of disease and severity of symptoms being seen indicates a need for initiation and implementation of extra precaution by competition management. The USEF encourages competition managers to review their biosecurity practices and, if needed, elevate their biosecurity plan to minimize the chance of horses having direct or indirect contact with one another. Indirect contact would include common water and feed sources as well as shared equipment and common areas. The goal of a biosecurity plan is to prevent the transmission of infectious agents among individuals. The components of a successful program will include cooperation of management, facility layout, decontamination, and when applicable immunization. Each of these factors directly affects the success or failure of a successful biosecurity plan. A copy of the American Association of Equine Practitioners biosecurity guidelines and EHV resources can be found at www.aaep.org/ehv_resources.htm. Additional information regarding available resources is also available at this link: http://www.usefnetwork.com/news/9670/2013/3/9/equine_herpes_virus_type_1_ehv1.aspx

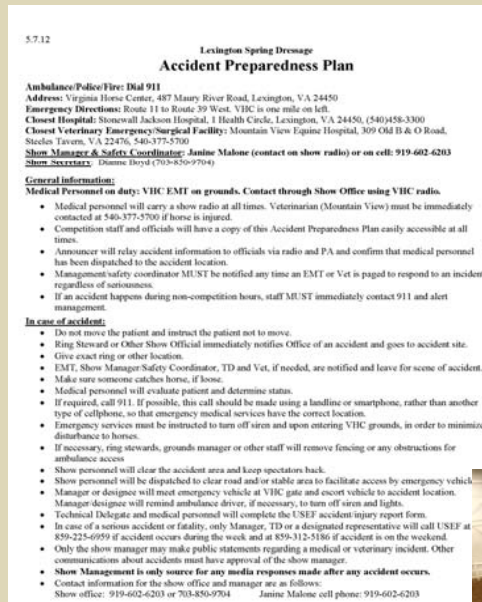
Forward this email

 SafeUnsubscribe

This email was sent to jemrph@aol.com by usefnews@usef.org
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)
United States Equestrian Federation | 4047 Iron Works Parkway | Lexington | KY | 40511

Saddlery Inspections

- Be sure to review the Accident Preparedness plan, as well as the illustrations and descriptions of permitted bits and saddlery. It's a lot to learn!
- Know who to contact and the proper actions to take in case of a fall of rider and loose horse.
- Don't hesitate to contact the TD or show manager if you have questions.
- THANK YOU for your help with the show!



This presentation created by Veronica Holt, Janine Malone and Lisa Gorretta. Photographs courtesy of authors and many others including High Time Photography (NC) and Lake Erie College (OH) Equine Studies students.