

Article 1011 - VETERINARY EXAMINATIONS, HORSE INSPECTIONS AND PASSPORT CONTROL

1 General Comments

1.1 All Veterinary Examinations, Horse Inspections and Passport Controls at FEI Events must be carried out in accordance with this Article and be adopted by the different disciplines.

1.2 Definitions:

- 1.2.1 The term '**Veterinary Examination**' is used to denote a clinical examination carried out by a qualified veterinarian to establish the general health status of a horse about to compete. Veterinary Examinations are also used to ensure safe international movement of competition horses.
- 1.2.2 The term '**Horse Inspection**' denotes the procedure used to verify whether a horse is fit enough to participate in an event or competition (i.e. 'fit to compete'). Horse Inspections are designed to promote equestrian sports, without compromising the welfare of the participating horses.
- 1.2.3 The term '**Passport Control**' is used to denote the process of establishing the identity of the horse and checking that the current vaccination requirements and all other relevant details have been properly entered in the passport.
- 1.2.4 The term '**Verification of Identity**' refers to the means of checking the identity markings of the horse against its diagram in the passport at a Veterinary Examination or Horse Inspection.

2 Veterinary Examinations

2.1 The (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate or a deputy must examine all horses entering the event stables, whether for competition, exhibition or any other reason.

2.2 The first Veterinary Examination ('Examination upon Arrival') should be carried out as soon as possible after arrival, but in any case before the horse enters the event stables.

2.3 The object of the Veterinary Examination is to:

- 2.3.1 Verify the identity of each horse from its passport.
- 2.3.2 Check that the vaccination status of the horse is in accordance with the current Veterinary Regulations.
- 2.3.3 Verify whether all other details are correctly recorded in the passport.
- 2.3.4 Check that the animal has not been in contact with other animals suffering from infectious or contagious disease (e.g. strangles) or has come from an establishment that is not free of such disease (see Art 1004.4)
- 2.3.5 To check that the Official Measurement Certificate for Ponies (see Annex XV.6) is in order at a FEI events for ponies.

2.3.6 Carry out a clinical examination to ensure that the horse is not suffering from any infectious or contagious disease. This examination may include the palpation of limbs and body, monitoring heart and respiratory rate, body temperature and any other pertinent clinical parameters necessary. The limbs may be palpated or lifted to examine a suspected abnormality. However, an examination for any lameness (i.e. flexion tests or a trot-up) is not part of this examination. A record of the clinical findings must be made which should follow the horse through successive examinations and inspections.

2.4 If the veterinarian's opinion is that the horse should not be allowed to be in contact with the other participants or should not take part in the event, the case must be referred to the Ground Jury and the Veterinary Commission/Delegate for a final decision.

2.5 Other Veterinary Examinations during competition may be required in Eventing, Driving and Endurance.

2.5.1 **The second Veterinary Examination in Eventing (after the cross-country) and in Driving (after Competition B or marathon) involves a brief clinical examination with monitoring of temperature, pulse and respiration. Details of the examination should be included on the horse data form.**

2.5.2 Obligatory examinations are carried out at the Vet Gates during an Endurance Ride. (see 9.1)

2.6 Following a Veterinary Examination:

2.6.1 Any horse, which is considered to be a health risk to other horses at the event, must be refused permission to enter the event stables. It may however, be stabled in separate isolation stables pending recovery or until alternative arrangements have been made.

2.6.2 Any horse, which is not considered to be fit to participate in the event, must be reported to the Ground Jury prior to the first Horse Inspection or, if not deemed fit for the Inspection, prior to being eliminated from the event.

2.6.3 Mares may not compete after their fourth month of pregnancy or with a foal at foot. If it is subsequently confirmed that a mare competed under either of these conditions, she will be disqualified from all events to which these conditions applied and the Person Responsible will be referred to the Secretary General for the attention of the Judicial Committee.

2.6.4 Horses may not compete with a tracheotomy (i.e. a surgical opening through the skin into the trachea) or after a neurectomy has been carried out.

2.6.5 **Tongue straps or guards for horses are not permitted in any FEI competitions.**

3. Horse Inspections

3.1 The aim of the standardised Horse Inspection protocol is to ensure the 'fitness to compete' of horses taking part in FEI competitions by providing the same objective protocol for all disciplines except Endurance Riding (see 9.1).

3.2 Horse Inspections are not intended to be of an equivalent standard to a veterinary examination for soundness or a pre-purchase evaluation.

3.3 The specific level of fitness required to pass Horse Inspections may vary between disciplines and even within some disciplines (e.g. 1st and 3rd Horse Inspections in Eventing).

3.4 The implementation of the 'fitness to compete' principle is essential to the fairness and objectivity of these inspections.

3.5 The decisions involved (i.e. accept/not accept or referred to the Holding Box) must be made by a panel of judges and veterinarians (i.e. the Inspection Panel).

4 Inspection Panel

4.1 The responsibility for accepting or not accepting horses to compete is shared between the Ground Jury and the Veterinary Commission/Delegate, but should be based on the professional opinion of the veterinarians.

4.2 The Inspection Panel should act as a committee, consisting of representatives from both the Ground Jury and Veterinary Commission/Delegate. When necessary, discipline rules will provide details of the specific composition of the Panel. The President of the Ground Jury (as Chairman of the Panel) shall have the casting vote should that be necessary.

4.3 The Inspection Panel should meet together with the Technical Delegate prior to the Horse Inspection to review the inspection protocol and any specific arrangements that may be required. In addition, the Inspection Panel must approve the surface on which the Horse Inspection is to take place.

5 Requirements for Horse Inspections

5.1 The Organising Committee must consider all the necessary requirements for the Horse Inspections, which are listed below. It must also liaise with the Technical Delegate/Veterinary Commission and will discuss the protocol for the inspections well in advance of the competition.

5.2 Surface - It is important that the inspection surface provides a fair evaluation of the horse's fitness to compete. The surface should always be firm, level and not slippery. This can be accomplished in three ways:

5.2.1 Freshly laid asphalt; if this surface is old and has become slippery it can be improved by adding a light cover of sand.

5.2.2 A competition arena surface that has been scraped to its firm base layer. The surface should be watered and rolled so that it is sufficiently compact to prevent it cutting up during the inspection.

5.2.3 A firm gravel or stone dust road that has been swept to remove all loose stones.

There should be approximately 50 metres of surface available to inspect the horses at walk and trot, but a shorter surface may be acceptable for indoor horse inspections. In some circumstances the Horse Inspection may, of necessity, be carried out on the competition surface, in which case the Organising Committee must discuss the conditions with the Inspection Panel and the Technical Delegate beforehand. In such a situation the surface must be firmly rolled to provide the appropriate conditions.

5.3 Organisation - The inspection area must be properly cordoned off from the public and effectively stewarded so that horses are ready for inspection at the scheduled time and quickly lead away afterwards.

5.4 Holding Box - A cordoned off area should be allocated close to the inspection area that can be used for a further examination of horses exhibiting doubtful fitness to compete. This area should be separate and if possible out of sight of the main inspection area. The surface of the Holding Box should be similar to the surface of the main inspection track. The procedure of examination in the Holding Box should be used for all inspections except the 2nd Horse Inspection in Eventing and Driving in the 10-Minute Halt.

5.5 Announcements to the public - A system of keeping any spectators or the public aware of the progress of the Inspection (i.e. horse being presented and its competition number) should be made by public address. The decision as to whether the horse has been accepted, not accepted or sent to the Holding Box should be given out immediately.

5.6 Safety of horses and handlers - Special care is necessary with strict stewarding practices at Inspections where there is going to be a high density of horses in the collecting area. The same applies if stallions are included in the Inspection, as they can create a significant safety risk to attendants and other horses.

6 Horse Inspection Protocol according to the Discipline rules

Timing for different disciplines – The first Horse Inspection should be held not more than 24 hours prior to the start of the first competition unless otherwise stated in the discipline rules. The timing of all inspections should be discussed at the first meeting of the Inspection Panel. Further inspections may be necessary in all disciplines to ensure the continued ‘fitness to compete’ of the horses during an event:

Eventing (CCI): Phase C)	1 st Horse Inspection before Dressage Test
	2 nd Horse Inspection during Endurance Test (after
	3 rd Horse Inspection before Jumping Test
Eventing (CIC)	see Annex XVI for details
Driving: (competition B)	1 st Horse Inspection before start of competition A
	2 nd Horse Inspection at the end of Section D
Jumping:	1 st Horse Inspection prior to first competition
	2 nd Horse Inspection as required by Jumping rules

Dressage:	1 st Horse Inspection prior to first competition
Vaulting:	1 st Horse Inspection prior to first competition
Reining:	1 st Horse Inspection prior to first competition
Endurance	1 st Horse Inspection prior to first competition further inspections take place at the Vet Gates 1 final inspection after the finish of the ride

7 Procedure of the Horse Inspection

7.1 General Remarks

Please note that the protocol is different for Endurance and CICs in Eventing (see 9.1 and 9.2).

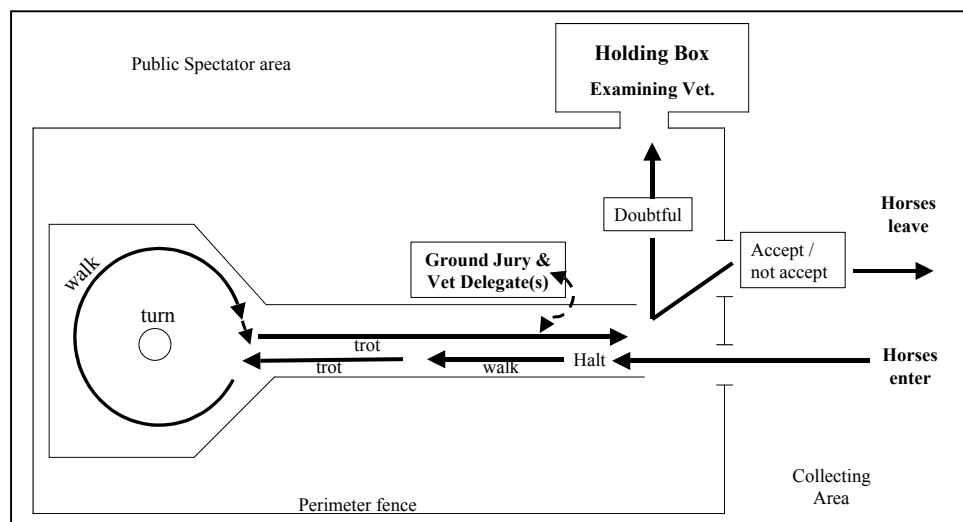
7.1.1 The Person Responsible should present the horse for inspection, unless prior permission to have a substitute lead the horse has been granted by the Inspection Panel.

7.1.2 The procedure for the inspection is outlined in Figure 1, which illustrates how the horse moves from the collecting area through the various facets of the inspection.

7.1.3 The veterinarian will walk round the horse to carry out a brief visual inspection of the horse. Palpation of a limb or other part of the body will only be carried out if deemed necessary. However, other clinical tests may not be performed at this time (i.e. active flexion tests or walk the horse in a circle).

7.1.4 After the visual inspection, the horse will be walked for a short distance and then trotted on a loose rein with the handler on the left side of the horse. The veterinarian watches the horse's gait from the centre of the inspection track.

7.1.5 The Inspection Panel then makes a decision, taking into account the opinion of the FEI Veterinary official, to accept, not accept or refer the horse to the Holding Box.



Procedure for Horse Inspections in FEI competitions

(The veterinarian(s) watch the horse's gait from the centre of the inspection track. The exact location of the Holding Box, entry and exit points for the horses and the public area may vary depending on the competition venue)

7.2 Use of the Holding Box

The Holding Box procedure should be used for horses that are considered 'doubtful' as to their fitness to compete.

7.2.1 If a horse is unacceptably lame or clearly unfit, the Inspection Panel should make the decision not to accept it at that point.

7.2.2 There must be only one Examining Veterinarian in charge of the Holding Box, whose responsibility is to examine all horses referred there.

7.2.3 The examination in the Holding Box should be carried out in consultation with the team veterinarian or the competitors' private veterinarian. If in the opinion of the examining veterinarian the horse is found consistently lame or unfit to compete, this should be pointed out to the Person Responsible as they may wish to withdraw the horse rather than have it presented to the Panel again. However, the Examining Veterinarian must avoid making a decision for the Inspection Panel and should therefore not explain the details of the report to be presented to the Inspection Panel. The Examining Veterinarian should inform the Person Responsible that it is the Inspection Panel that makes the final decision.

7.2.4 The horse will be examined physically and by palpation if any region of the body is suspected as being abnormal or injured. Hoof testers may be used to evaluate pain in the feet and passive flexion of the distal limb joints may be carried out. The horse will then be walked and trotted in hand. Walking and trotting in a circle is permissible, but not tests involving active flexion. The examination continues until the Examining Veterinarian is satisfied that sufficient clinical information has been collected to enable a report to be made for the Inspection Panel.

7.3 Re-inspection

7.3.1 After the horse has been examined in the Holding Box and the Examining Veterinarian has reported the findings to the Panel, the horse will be re-inspected either immediately after the last horse or at a suitable break during the Horse Inspection. (see para 8.1 for Jumping)

7.3.2 A re-inspection may also be permitted the morning after the Horse Inspection if circumstances exist which might prejudice the horse's chances of being accepted (e.g. the horse arrives at the event only a short time before the Inspection). The re-inspection involves walking and trotting the horse once more so that a final decision as to whether the horse may be accepted or

not can be made. If the horse is accepted it may be required to undergo medication control testing.

7.4 Appeal – The decision of the Inspection Panel is final and there is no appeal process.

8. Special Considerations

8.1 For the Jumping discipline, two special considerations may apply:

8.1.1 Re-inspection of horses referred to the Holding Box is permitted the day after the Horse Inspection. Prior to this the Ground Jury, Veterinary Delegate and Examining Veterinarian must confer about the horses listed for a re-inspection. The procedure for the re-inspection will consist of a brief clinical examination before walking and trotting the horse in front of the Inspection Panel. If a horse is accepted it may be required to undergo immediate medication control testing.

8.1.2 If a horse is clearly 'unfit to compete' and no member of the Ground Jury is able to be present, the Veterinary Delegate may recommend that the President of the Ground Jury eliminate the horse without re-inspection provided the horse has been examined in the Holding Box.

8.2 For the second Horse Inspection in Eventing and Driving, the procedure is an assessment of the horse's potential to continue to compete in the Endurance Test and therefore the procedure will be somewhat different.

8.2.1 Eventing – A brief clinical examination should be carried out by the (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate as the horse enters the halt. The gait should be assessed and a record of pulse and respiration made. It is strongly encouraged that the rectal temperature of the horse be taken and all clinical details recorded on the horse data form. At about 6 minutes after arrival the horse should be re-examined and the gait assessed by the (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate and Ground Jury member to ensure its fitness to compete on Phase D.

8.2.2 Driving – The above-described procedure applies except that the examination of the horses is usually carried out in harness and may not necessarily include all four animals in the team.

8.3 Driving – There is no longer a mandatory third Inspection for this discipline. **Instead a Final Observation before Competition C is carried out in harness under the supervision of the Ground Jury with a veterinarian in attendance for advice.**

8.4 Phase C Halt in Eventing – In CCI**, CCI*** and CCI**** events there may be a mandatory 10-Minute halt included at 1-3 km from the start of Phase C. A veterinarian is in attendance at the halt and is available for advice and assistance, but no official examination is carried out.

8.5 For Driving, where large numbers of horses must be inspected in a limited time frame, it is often necessary to provide two inspection panels. In this case, the protocol is to have a veterinarian at each line supported by at least one Ground Jury member. Each panel can accept a horse for entry to the competition, but in doubtful or unfit animals they may send it to the

Holding Box. When a horse is brought out of the Holding Box, the two panels came together to hear the report of the Examining Veterinarian before the horse is trotted again and a final decision made.

8.6 Use of whips – Whips may not be permitted at Horse Inspections by some disciplines, but the use of a short whip for restraint of stallions or difficult horses may be allowed by the Inspection Panel upon request.

9 Veterinary Examinations and Horse Inspections in Endurance and CICs

9.1 Endurance Riding (Art. 830 Endurance Rules)

9.1.1 Examination upon Arrival/Horse Inspection

- i. The first Examination takes place upon arrival of the horses; the first Horse Inspection on the day preceding the competition. At CEIs, the Examination upon Arrival is sometimes combined with the first Horse Inspection. The Horse Inspection procedure includes auscultation of the heart and respiratory system and an evaluation of the General Condition. In addition, the gait of the horse is verified in walk and trot on a flat, firm surface.
- ii. All parameters checked must be recorded on the veterinary card for each horse.

9.1.2 Procedure in Vet Gates (during the ride)

- i. Further inspections take place during compulsory rest periods, after no longer than 30 minutes recovery following arrival at the Vet Gate.
- ii. The Ground Jury is responsible for the organisation of these inspections.
- iii. The inspection will determine the fitness of the horse to continue, with emphasis on the heart rate and respiratory system (by auscultation), against a set heart rate of 56-64 beats per minute according to the classification of the ride. Adverse weather conditions may necessitate a different set point for the heart rate. The inspection will also evaluate previous lacerations listed on the Vet Card or any new injuries.
- iv. General (metabolic) condition: Horses showing signs of excessive fatigue, heat load, colic, myopathies or dehydration must be eliminated.
- v. Gait (lameness): Horses showing an irregularity of gait as defined by the rules must be eliminated.
- vi. Elimination: Elimination of a horse should be done by the Ground Jury on advice of the Veterinary Commission (e.g. three members of the Veterinary Commission).

9.1.3 Final Inspection (after the finish)

The final inspection timing and method is to be included in the event schedule and communicated to all participants at the first briefing. This inspection will verify whether the horse is still fit to be ridden and must include similar parameters as in veterinary controls during the ride.

9.1.4 Veterinary control after the ride

- i. Treatment of horses within 2 hours following the finish, unless for minor conditions, means an automatic elimination of the horse.
- ii. After rides of 140 km or more on one day or 100 km during two days all competing horses must remain in the stables at least 24 hours after finishing, unless prior departure is authorised by the Veterinary Commission.

9.2 Eventing: Inspection and Examination of Horses at CICs (Art 518.2 of Eventing Rules)

9.2.1 A meeting of the Veterinary Delegate appointed for the CIC and representative(s) of the Organising Committee should take place well before the event to go through the veterinary management for the CIC.

9.2.2 The Organising Committee must provide adequate veterinary facilities including a suitable box for clinical examination and first aid, and a sampling box for medication control purposes.

9.2.3 For CIC***, all horses must have a valid FEI passport or registration with an FEI approved National Identification document (including a diagram of the horse) with an accredited vaccination certificate for influenza. For CIC**/*, the FEI passport is not required if competing in their home country; these horses must be registered with their NF, be identifiable by diagram and have a valid vaccination certificate.

9.2.4 **Veterinary Examination and Horse Inspections: see Annex XVI.**

9.2.5 A Veterinary Examination must be carried out by one of the Treating Veterinarians after the Cross Country. If the horse is exhausted or **markedly** lame the Veterinary Delegate and a Ground Jury member should be called to consider elimination of the horse from the competition. The horse may be required to be trotted in hand at this examination.

9.2.6 Medication control testing should be carried out by an official Testing Veterinarian as part of the FEI's Medical Control Programme or by the Veterinary Delegate if the event is outside the MCP area (i.e. Groups I & II).

9.2.7 The Veterinary Delegate should liaise with any Treating Veterinarians to know their whereabouts and availability on the Cross Country course at all times. Radio contact is therefore essential.

9.2.8 The Veterinary Delegate should submit an amended short FEI Veterinary Report to FEI Veterinary Department within 15 days of the event.

9.2.9 If a CCI and CIC competition are held together at the same venue, a horse that is not accepted at a CCI Horse Inspection cannot start in the CIC competition.