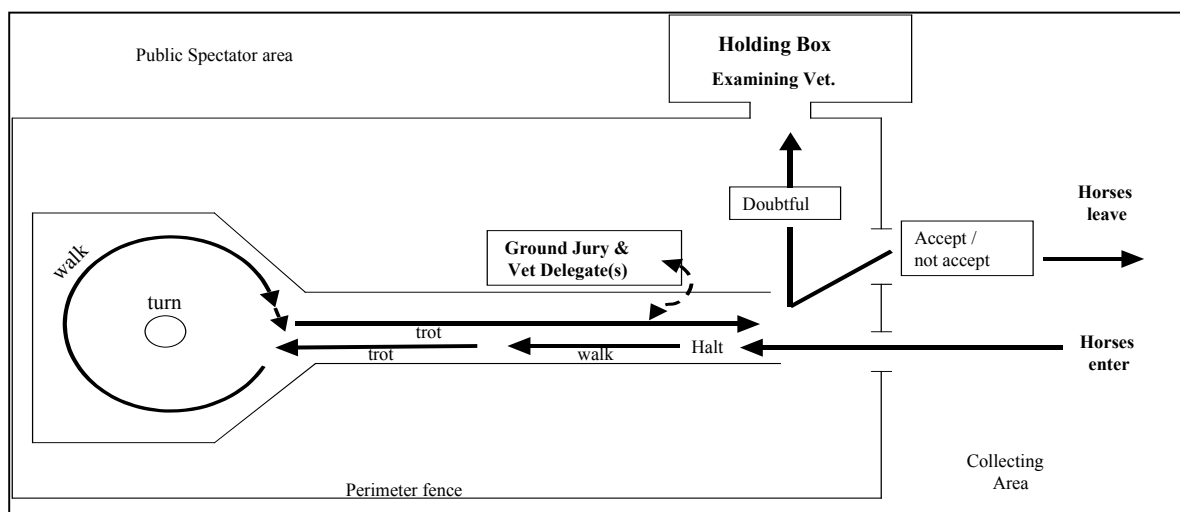


## ANNEX I - HORSE INSPECTIONS

The procedure and arrangements described here refer to the First and Third Horse Inspections at a CCI and to the conduct of formal Horse Inspections at a One-Day Event. However, the Rules (Article 518 2) should be consulted to determine exactly which Horse Inspections are required at CIC's.

### 1 LAYOUT AND FACILITIES NEEDED

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.



- The overall area should be cordoned off to keep the spectators separate from the horses. This is both to reduce the probability of disturbing horses, and as a general safety measure in an area where there is often quite a high density of horses.
- The main criteria for the surface are that it must be firm and level and remain consistent for all horses. The area should be approximately 40-50 metres in total length and at least 2 metres wide.

The actual surface for inspection can vary - tarmac is the best, providing it is not slippery. A very light sprinkling of sand on top of tarmac or, especially, concrete, is advisable. Grass, sand, etc. are not acceptable. Well-rolled crushed stone, such as that forming the base of many jumping arenas, has also proved very satisfactory.

- The holding box. This area should be away from the main inspection area. It must be large enough to accommodate 3-4 horses walking, and either in it, or nearby, there must be a surface similar to that of the inspection for the Examining Veterinarian to have a horse trotted.

- d) When at the First and Third Horse Inspection each horse, on presentation, is to be briefly verified against its passport description, a suitable table, chairs and if necessary shelter etc. should be made available for the persons responsible for this verification. Note that detailed identification of the horse against its description in the FEI Passport should take place at the First Veterinary Examination on arrival at the event.

## **2 PERSONNEL REQUIRED**

- a) The “Inspection Panel” comprising the Ground Jury and the Veterinary Delegate/Foreign Veterinary Delegate.
- b) One Examining Veterinarian in the holding box who must report his findings direct to the Panel. To avoid doubt, the same veterinarians must officiate in the same roles at the First and Third Horse Inspections.
- c) Enough stewards to ensure that the horses are safely presented in the correct order and on time.
- d) A steward to supervise the holding box.
- e) An announcer, with loudspeaker etc.
- f) Provision to remove manure from the inspection area during the inspection

## **3 PRELIMINARY JURY MEETING**

- a) It is strongly recommended that the Ground Jury and the Veterinary Commission meet for a brief discussion, with the TD, prior to the 1st Horse Inspection, to agree procedures, etc.
- b) It is of great importance that all Horse Inspections are conducted in a clear and understandable way; the correct procedures must be followed at all times.

## **4 TIMETABLE AND ORDER OF PRESENTATION**

- a) The 1st Horse Inspection should be after the Draw for the Nations and the Official Opening of the courses to the Competitors, but before the Declaration of Starters.
- b) In a competition with only individual classification and where the Starting Order has already been determined, horses should be inspected in numerical order (sometimes an exception is made to allow a rider with more than 1 horse to present them successively). Otherwise each nation’s horses must be inspected in the order of nations determined at the First Draw. The horses should be inspected in the same order at the Third Inspection as at the First.
- c) On average at a well laid out and organised Inspection, it takes about 1 minute per horse to carry out the inspection, but no detailed timetable should be issued. However, where there are several classes or divisions at an event, it can be helpful to announce when the first horse of each class will be inspected – to avoid long waiting periods.
- d) The 3rd Horse Inspection should finish at least 1 hour before the Jumping Test starts.

## 5 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) In the interest of better public understanding of the horse inspection procedure, it is recommended that the announcer uses the following form of words before the inspection commences: “The objective of this first/third horse inspection is to determine which horses are fit to compete in the competition/show jumping. The Inspection Panel you see here is made up of the three Ground Jury Members plus the FEI Veterinary Delegate. Any horse that the Panel decides not to be fit to compete may be eliminated from the competition or referred to the holding-box for further veterinary examination. The results of this examination have a strong bearing on whether the Panel feel it is in the horse’s best interest to be allowed to compete/continue in the competition. The President of the Ground Jury would also like to kindly request that spectators refrain from clapping whilst horses are being inspected”.
- b) The announcer should announce the name, nationality and number of each horse and rider and to tell the public whether or not a horse has been passed.

## 6 HORSE DATA FORM (SEE ANNEX VI)

It is recommended that a simple chart be kept for each horse, on which any relevant veterinary facts can be recorded. This chart should be available at all the examinations and inspections and kept up to date by the relevant veterinarian. It may also be viewed by individual riders if requested.

## 7 PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION

- a) The Panel should always insist that all horses be correctly presented, in a bridle (not a head collar), to enable them to be inspected properly. They must be trotted on a loose rein. The rider may carry a whip if he wishes.
- b) The Panel should position themselves 5-10 metres from the start of the marked runway. Each horse should walk up to them and stand still. The Veterinary Delegate should briefly examine the horse, normally without touching it.
- c) The horse should then walk away from the Panel for about 10 metres, trot to the end, turn right and then trot back and past the Panel. It is recommended to mark the places where they should change pace or turn - e.g. with flower tubs.
- d) The President of the Ground Jury should then briefly check with all members of the Inspection Panel. If all are immediately agreed, the horse should be passed or not passed and he should signify this to the Announcer (if present, or announce it himself). There is no point in sending a clearly lame or unfit horse to the holding box. Only if there is disagreement, or if there is doubt as whether the horse is fit to compete, should it be sent to the holding box.
- e) While substantial weight must be given to the professional advice of the Veterinarian, the 4 members of the Panel have an equal vote. In the case of equality, the President has a second and casting vote.
- f) If there is any disagreement among the Panel, or if they are all inclined not to pass the horse, it should be trotted in both directions once more, unless it is seriously lame. The Panel should bear in mind that the test is whether or not the horse is fit to compete, not whether it would pass a soundness examination for a

potential purchaser! Particularly at the Third Inspection, the Panel should allow horses to continue in the competition if they have minor injuries that will be of no long term consequence or interfere with the horse's welfare, provided of course that it is not unacceptably lame or in any other way unfit to compete.

- g) Discussions of the Ground Jury during the Horse Inspections are to be considered confidential; some provision should therefore be made to keep the public out of immediate earshot of the Ground Jury.

## **8 PROCEDURE IN THE HOLDING BOX**

- a) The number of persons in the Holding Box should be limited to those with a clear need to be there – 1 Examining Veterinarian, competitor and/or groom, steward, competitor's own veterinarian, together with a steward.
- b) Horses in the holding box should not be touched by anyone except the Examining Veterinarian, competitor or the groom - i.e. the competitor's own Veterinarian may observe but not touch or examine the horse. The horse may have rugs put on if necessary.
- c) There must only be one Examining Veterinarian in the holding box.
- d) The Examining Veterinarian may carry out whatever routine test he thinks necessary to ascertain the cause of any lameness, while being as non-intrusive as is reasonably practical. He may for example carry out flexion tests - but not immediately before the Inspection Panel reinspects the horse. The Examining Veterinarian may or may not be able to discover the cause of any apparent irregularity.
- e) The Examining Veterinarian must report his findings direct to the Panel.
- f) He should avoid telling the Person Responsible specifically of his opinion, since this could cause embarrassment when the horse is reinspected. The decision is one for the Panel and so the examining veterinarian needs to avoid making the decision for them or appearing to do so. If however he is quite clear that the horse has little or no chance of being passed, because it is consistently lame or clearly unfit to compete, he should tactfully tell the Person Responsible so that the horse can be withdrawn if desired.

## **9 RE-INSPECTION OF A HORSE FROM THE HOLDING BOX**

- a) If there are a lot of horses in the competition, the Inspection Panel may decide to re-inspect horses held in the early stages during the inspection, to avoid their having to wait for too long. The TD will supervise the re-inspection timing, liaising with the Panel and the Examining Veterinarian.
- b) When the Panel is ready to re-inspect, the Examining Veterinarian should report to the whole Panel his findings on each horse. He may advise the Panel but he has no vote. The horse may then be trotted again, at the discretion of the Panel. The rider has the option to withdraw if he so decides. Before the Panel makes a final decision, the Veterinary Delegate/FVD may if he wishes make his own examination of the horse.
- c) No Appeal is possible against any decision during the Horse Inspection.