

BANDAGE CONTROL DURING FEI EVENTS

The control of boots, bandages or tack material for the presence of foreign bodies and/or application of irritating or prohibited substances may be carried out by Stewards during a class or an exercise/schooling period. The above inspections should be carried out with the approval of the President of the Ground Jury and after consultation with the FEI Veterinary Official. Generally, horses should only be stopped for this procedure when they are exiting the arena or the practice ring.

Although it is not mandatory for the (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate to be present during these bandage controls, he must be informed of any scheduled bandage check or limb inspection in order to be immediately available for consultation if necessary. If unannounced bandage checks seem to be warranted, it is crucial that the (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate be informed, in order to be immediately available. For bandage checks during the finals of major events (i.e. Championships, Games, World Cups, etc.) a member of the Veterinary Commission must attend the bandage checking procedure.

If the stewards carry out the above inspection, at least two stewards must be present; of which one must be a Chief Steward. The horse should stand on a clean surface (e.g. a rubber mat which should be kept clean). The steward should normally remove any or all boots, bandages or item of saddlery the horse is wearing, to enable a close inspection. The Stewards may inspect the limbs of the horse; however, detailed palpation of the legs to assess irritation, skin damage or hypersensitivity in the region of the coronary band must be performed by the FEI Veterinary Official.

During bandage checks, it is permitted to also evaluate the temperature of the horses' limbs by thermographic examination. In this case, the (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate must be present.

If the inspection results in the finding of suspicious material or a possible case of hypersensitisation, the President of the Ground Jury must be informed immediately. The horse and all inspected items must be kept under strict surveillance until arrival of the FEI Veterinary Official, who will inspect the horse and advise further. The (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate must verify the identity of the horse against the outline diagram and include the name of the horse and the FEI Passport number in his report.

It is recommended that material for forensic screening (swabs, bandages, tape, applied substances, etc.) be kept in a special sampling kit to be sent, with official barcode labels for identification, to the designated laboratory. For this purpose, limb swabbing kits can be obtained from the Central Laboratory through the FEI. It is essential that the material be put in a closed bag or sampling bottle as soon as possible, since the substances used could be volatile. It is strongly advised that photos or a video recording are made showing the limbs involved, and to have all written reported material signed by witness(es). The Testing Manual, including relevant sections on limb swabbing, can be found on the FEI website (http://www.horsesport.org/FEI/fei_04_08.html).