

Article 1011 VETERINARY EXAMINATIONS, HORSE INSPECTIONS AND PASSPORT CONTROL

1 General Comments

1.1 All Veterinary Examinations and Horse Inspections at FEI Events must be carried out in accordance with this Article and be adopted by the each discipline.

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 that competition horses are not ill or injured as a result of international movement.

1.2.2 The term '**Horse Inspection**' denotes the procedure used to verify whether a horse is fit to participate in an event or competition (i.e. 'fit to compete').

1.2.3 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 comes into contact with other horses in 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 (VR Art 1004.4)

2.3.5 To check that the Official Measurement Certificate for Ponies (see Annex XVIII) 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 brief clinical examination with monitoring of temperature, pulse and respiration aimed at the recovery of the horse. 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. The Veterinary Commission/Delegate should discuss the case with the Ground Jury which is responsible for making the decision, if necessary, to eliminate the horse before the First Horse Inspection.

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 reference to 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.

2.6.6 Shock wave therapy (i.e. Extra-Corporal Shockwave, ESWT) and Cryo-therapy are not permitted during competition and for a period of five days prior to the first Horse Inspection. The application of ice is acceptable.

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 among disciplines and even within the same discipline (e.g. 1st and final Horse Inspections in Eventing).

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

3.5 The decisions at a Horse Inspection (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 needed. 4.3 The Inspection Panel members 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. Well in advance of the competition, the Organising Committee must also liaise with the Technical Delegate/Veterinary Commission and should discuss with them the protocol for the inspections.

5.2 Surface - It is important that the inspection surface provides a fair evaluation of the horse's fitness to compete. The surface should be constructed so that it does not change appreciably as the Inspection proceeds. 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 well in advance. 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. The collecting area should be at a safe distance from the Inspection site, and care must be taken to avoid allowing horses to mingle at unsafe distances.

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 Holding Box should have an area where the surface is 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 inspection in the 10 Minutes Box Halt in Driving or the 2nd Horse Inspection in Eventing.

5.5 Announcements to the public - Announcements of the progress of the Horse Inspection (i.e. horse being presented and its competition number) should be made via a public address system. The decision as to whether the horse has been accepted, not accepted or sent to the Holding Box should be announced 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 any horse during an event:

Eventing (CCI): (with steeple chase)	1 st Horse Inspection before Dressage Test 2 nd Horse Inspection during Cross Country Test (after Phase C) 3 rd Horse Inspection before Jumping Test
Eventing (CCI): (without steeple chase)	1 st Horse Inspection before Dressage Test 3 rd Horse Inspection before Jumping Test
Eventing (CIC)	see paragraph 9.2
Driving:	1 st Horse Inspection before start of competition A 2 nd Horse Inspection at the end of Section D (competition B)
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.

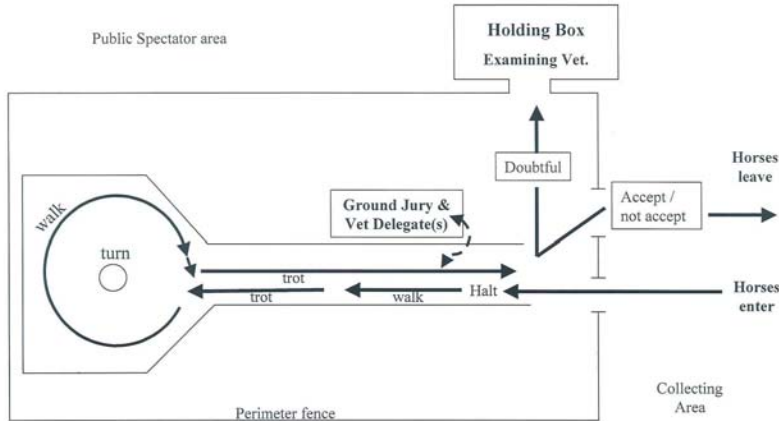
7.1.3 The veterinarian will walk round the horse to carry out a brief visual inspection of the horse. Palpation of a limb or other part of the body will only be carried out if deemed necessary. However, other clinical tests may not be performed at this time (i.e. flexion tests or walk the horse in a 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 handler trots the horse to the end of the track where he slows the horse to a walk to turn around clockwise). The handler then continues to trot the horse on a loose rein back to the start. The veterinarian watches the horse's gait from the centre of the inspection track.

7.1.5 After determining the opinions of all members of the Inspection panel, the Panel then makes a decision, to accept, not accept or refer the horse to the Holding Box. In the event of a split decision, the

President of the Ground Jury has the casting vote. When the horse's "fitness to continue" is questionable, it is appropriate to send it to the Holding Box.

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



Procedure for Horse Inspections in FEI competitions

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

7.2.2 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 he 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. The Examining Veterinarian should inform the Person Responsible that it is the Inspection Panel that makes the final decision.

7.2.3 A physical examination will be performed. Any area that is thought to be injured or painful will be palpated. Hoof testers may be used to evaluate pain in the feet and passive flexion of the distal limb joints may be carried out. Passive flexion of the distal limb joints may be carried out to assess the range of movement of a joint. Active flexion tests are not permitted. The horse will then be walked and trotted in hand. Walking and trotting in a circle is permissible. 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). It is important to allow sufficient time between the examination in the Holding Box and the re-inspection. The results of the re-inspection should be announced immediately.

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. (also see 8.1.1). Re-inspection the morning after the Horse Inspection is not customarily performed in the Eventing Discipline.

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 and Dressage disciplines, 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. Re-inspection should be carried out in the Horse Inspection area. 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. In this instance the Veterinary Delegate should contact the President of the Ground Jury upon his arrival at the venue.

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 a qualified Veterinarian under supervision by the 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 CCIs with steeple chase there may be a mandatory halt up to 10 minutes in length 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 unless requested by a rider.

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 doubtful or unfit horses may be sent 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 Eventing

9.1 Endurance Riding (Endurance Rules, Art. 830)

9.1.1 Examination upon Arrival/Horse Inspection

- i. The first Examination takes place upon arrival of the horses; the first Horse Inspection is on the day preceding the competition. At CEIs, the Examination upon Arrival is sometimes combined with the first Horse Inspection.
- ii. The Horse Inspection procedure includes auscultation of the heart and respiratory system and an evaluation of the General Condition of the horse. In addition, the gait of the horse is verified in trot on a flat, firm surface.
- iii. 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 20-30 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 (evaluated by auscultation). Heart rates are compared to 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 for lameness should be carried out by the Ground Jury on advice of the Veterinary Commission (e.g. three members of the Veterinary Commission). For metabolic reasons, elimination can be decided upon by the Veterinary Official; however, consultation with the Ground Jury is strongly advised.

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 assessment of similar parameters as are used in the 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 over one day or 100 km over two days all competing horses must remain in the stables at least 24 hours after finishing, unless early departure is authorised by the Veterinary Commission.

9.2 Eventing: Inspections and Examinations of Horses at CICs (Eventing Rules, Art 518.2)

9.2.1 Veterinary examinations and Horse Inspections for CICs held on one day.

- a. At a CIC in which the whole event is held on one day, there will be 1 Veterinary Examination, 1 Passport Control and a Horse Inspection in an adapted format.
- b. It is recognised that any format will be difficult for Organisers to arrange within the short time frame of the event. It is not considered practical to hold a formal Horse Inspection as outlined in the Veterinary Regulations Art 1011. The following minimum criteria apply:
- c. The site of the Examination/Inspection needs to be decided on well before the event. It should conform to the requirements in the Veterinary Regulations (Art.1011.5.2) as closely as possible (i.e. a hard level track of ± 50 metres). The location will need to be close to the Dressage judging so that a member of the Ground Jury could be called for a speedy decision on the fitness of a horse to compete.
- d. A Veterinary Examination together with Passport Control will be carried out throughout the day; all horses must have completed this prior to any jumping effort taking place. This can be done on a horse-by-horse basis with riders bringing these horses to the Veterinary Delegate for the examination.
- e. The Veterinary Delegate must do a general check for contagious disease during this examination. If there is sufficient evidence that the horse should not take part in the competition, the Ground Jury must be consulted and together with the Vet Delegate, may exclude the horse from the competition.
- f. At any time of the competition and specifically during the Dressage test at CICs the Ground Jury has the duty to eliminate any horse, which in its opinion is lame or unfit to continue. The Ground Jury can ask for the horse to be presented to the Veterinary Delegate after the test for final decision.
- g. A Final Observation should be made prior to the last Jumping test (i.e. Jumping or the Cross-Country) to carry out a soundness evaluation by trotting the horse in hand or by the veterinarian observing the horse being ridden in the warm up area. If there is any doubt about the horse's soundness a member of the Ground Jury will make a final decision as to whether it can continue in the competition.
- h. 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.
- i. A Veterinary Examination should always be carried out by one of the Treating Veterinarians after the Cross Country. If the horse is exhausted or unacceptably 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.

- j. 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).
- k. An amended short FEI Veterinary Report should be submitted by the Veterinary Delegate to FEI Veterinary Department within 15 days of the event.

9.2.2 Further requirements for CICs held over two or three days

These requirements are in addition to, or where relevant replacing, those listed under 9.2.1

- a. An Associate Veterinary Delegate should be appointed to assist the Veterinary Delegate throughout the event. Both veterinarians must be in attendance for the entire competition.
- b. For a CIC which is run over 2 or more days, there will be 2 Veterinary Examinations, 1 Passport Control and a minimum of 1 Horse Inspection before the Dressage Test and/or a second inspection should be held before Showjumping if this test is held the day after the Cross Country. Alternatively, the CCI protocol (VR Art. 1011.6) can be used.
- c. 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 or vice versa.
- d. If the CIC is being held as a Championship, the CCI without steeplechase protocol must be used (VR Art. 1011.6) with 2 Veterinary examinations, 1 passport control, 1 limited veterinary evaluation at the warm up before the cross country and 2 formal Horse Inspections.

9.2.3 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.

9.2.4 The Veterinary Delegate should contact the Organising Committee in advance of the event to plan for Treating Veterinarians' availability during the cross-country. He must liaise with any Treating Veterinarians to know their whereabouts and availability on the Cross Country course at all times. Effective communication is therefore essential; radio contact is strongly recommended.