

**NATIONAL FEDERATIONS/STAKEHOLDERS
COMMENTS ON PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF
VETERINARY REGULATIONS 2025**

Please fill in the below table(s) as per the following instructions:

- Use one table for each Article that you would like to comment.
- Fill in all spaces by clearly including:
 - The name of your Organisation;
 - Article that you comment;
 - Your comment and rationale; and
 - Your proposed wording.

If you are making comments to more than one Article please copy and paste the below table as necessary and, as mentioned above, use one table for each Article that you would like to comment.

Name of National Federation or Stakeholder

ICDA International Carriage Drivers Association

Article No.–Article Name

1033 - Horse Inspections' Timings

Comment and Rationale

ICDA respects the position of the Veterinary Commission and the Driving Technical Committee,

ICDA would, however, like to resubmit its recommendation to replace the First Horse Inspection with an In Harness Horse Inspection immediately prior to the Dressage test for competitions up to and including CAI3* but excluding CAIOs and Championships.

ICDA believes that such a change can be backed up by arguments covering equine welfare, athlete and groom safety as well as economic considerations for show organisers and athletes.

Firstly there are a large number of checks throughout the period of the competition beginning with the vet check on arrival, which in 2025 has been supplemented by a heart rate check which takes place either on arrival or in the stables later the same day. There are bit checks following the Dressage, In Harness Inspections both prior to and following on from the Marathon as well as In Harness Inspections prior to and following on from the Cones. This means that at every stage of the competition equine welfare can be carefully assessed.

First Horse Inspections typically takes place on Wednesday morning. Some athletes are therefore competing **more than 48 hours after** the First Horse Inspection. This is a result of the trend to invite more than 100 competitors to include multiples meaning that there are often more than 200 horses/ponies in the First Horse Inspection. ICDA believes that, for welfare reasons, this gap needs to be reduced.

ICDA believes that In harness Inspections provide a very good basis on which to assess fitness and health of equines given that with a weight bearing load it is likely that fitness to compete can be properly assessed

There have been several incidents during the 2025 season where athletes and grooms have been injured (in one case at Drebkau seriously) as a result of large numbers of horses and ponies being assessed simultaneously. Loose horses and ponies are a frequent occurrence. It is therefore very difficult for officials and athletes alike to manage such occasions

Lastly the economic considerations for the various stakeholders is an important consideration. If the First Horse Inspection is replaced by an In harness Inspection prior to the Dressage, athletes and their often large support teams will save one to two days of travel/costs which will then also help reduce organiser costs.

Proposed Wording

Horse Inspections' timings for the various Disciplines are as follows:

DISCIPLINE	FIRST HORSE INSPECTION	ADDITIONAL
Driving	Championships and CAIOs: Within 24 hours of the start of first competition CAIs: In Harness prior to the start of the Dressage.	In Harness Horse inspection: prior to the start of section A/B of the marathon. In Harness Examination: between 10-15 minutes after the Athlete has entered the Cool-Down area. finish of the marathon.