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FÉDÉRATION ÉQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

VETERINARY REGULATIONS
FULL REVIEW 2026

NOTE 1: Please use one table below for each proposed rule change. You may copy and paste the table for each proposal.

NOTE 2: The table below contains sections for each phase of the 2026 Revision Process. Please complete only the relevant sections in accordance with the 2026 Rules Revision Timeline.

NOTE 3: To facilitate FEI HQ's review, please submit your document in Word format only (not PDF).

NOTE 4: For any questions, please first consult the "User's Guide" or contact the FEI at francisco.lima@fei.org

NOTE 7:

- NF : National Federation
- MOU SH : MOU Stakeholder

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FÉDÉRATION ÉQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE

Article No.–Article Name

Art. 1029.3.f Examination on Arrival

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change

ICDA has received a lot of feedback on the way in which the new Veterinary Rules on heart rate checks are being implemented on arrival at competitions. The feedback was shared with the FEI in April 2025 and reflects the experiences of officials, grooms and athletes.

Driving events attracted a significant number of entries, including large H2/H4 classes, which means that several hundred horses and ponies arrive within a narrow window the day before the First Horse Inspection.
Athletes and grooms are firstly challenging the value of a heart rate check just as the horses are unloaded from the horse trucks after, in many cases, long trips. This is a moment of high stress for grooms and equines and the results may not be a fair reflection of the wellbeing of the horse. In informal conversations at the Driving Forum vets questioned what value such checks would serve when taken just off the trucks.
The work load of vets has increased significantly as a result of the introduction of the heart rate checks and there are insufficient resources available to handle this additional requirement. Attached is a photograph of scenes in the stable area at Kronenberg which have been described as "chaotic" by a number of those present. This cannot be good for the welfare of both equines and grooms.

ICDA proposes that, if the FEI continues to attach importance to the heart check for driving and eventing horses, then alternative arrangements are found to check heart rates once horses have settled into their stables, which is a much fairer test of equine wellbeing. The scenes pictured below should not be repeated (see VR – Art. 101.2a – sufficient space, minimal contact).



1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

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for the disciplines of Eventing and Driving, the Examination on Arrival must include a clinical examination to assess the heart – for Driving the clinical examination to assess the heart can be done in the Horse's stable maximul 6 hours after arrival

20 July 2026: 1st Draft submitted by FEI to NFs and MOU SHs

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7 September 2026: Comments on 1st Draft Received by NFs

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6 November 2026: Final Draft for vote at the FEI General Assembly 2026

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Article No.–Article Name

1033 – Horse Inspections' Timings

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change

ICDA is welcoming the willingness of the Veterinary Committee – expressed during the GA in Hong Kong to visit driving shows to assess adequacy of the inspection regime.

ICDA would 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.

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

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 the marathon. **In Harness Examination**: Within 15 minutes after the turnout finishes the Marathon.

		In Harness Inspection before Cones: before the Cones test where it does not take place on the same day as Dressage.

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Article No.–Article Name

1034 – Horse Inspections Panel

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change

In line with the proposals for Art. 1033 and given the expertise for the In Harness Inspection before Cones

Art. 935.2: In the ICDA Survey of January 2025 it was stated that the duration of CAIs is too long. Having the First Horse Inspection one of even two days before the actual start of the first Competition of some classes, the expenses for an OC and Athletes are high. By conducting the First Horse Inspection for CAIs in Harness will save time and money. An additional FEI judge needs to be present.

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

Discipline	Number of Panel Members	Inspection Panel
Driving	2 ~~2~~ 3 1 2	**First Horse Inspection** Championships and CAIOs: - President of the GJ - VD CAIs: - VD and/or PVC - One steward - FEI Judge **In Harness Inspection** - One Treating Veterinarian **In Harness Inspection before Cones** - VD and/or PVC - One Steward

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Article No.–Article Name

Art. 1080.3 – Regulatory Height

Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)

ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association

Explanation for Proposed Change

Driving differs from other disciplines in so far as athletes qualify but ponies do not need to be qualified independently. There is therefore an increased likelihood that athletes may wish to compete with ponies they have acquired/borrowed which have missed the very small number of Measurement Sessions, which are often in places which are geographically far removed from the residence of the athlete especially outside Europe. Also in Europe in the summer season the Measurement Sessions are very limited.

ICDA proposes to exclude driving ponies with a National Measuring Certificate issued by the NF between 125 – 145 cm to be measured at an FEI Measuring Session.

1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs

Driving Ponies in Pairs and Four-in-Hands may not be less than 108 cm without shoes, or 109 cm with shoes. Single Ponies must not be less than 120cms without shoes, 121cms with shoes.
Ponies competing in CAI1*, CAI2*, CAI3* Events, Young Pony Events and Young Pony Championships, as described by the Driving Rules, Annex 13 of all classes and Athlete categories may compete without an Interim or Lifetime Measuring Certificate. In such Events the TD may request that a Pony that is suspected to exceed the regulatory height is measured at ~~a~~ an FEI Measuring Session within the same calendar year. If the Pony is "measured in" at that Measuring Session, the Pony must then be issued with an FEI Interim or Lifetime Measuring Certificate in order to continue competing as a Pony.
Any Ponies suspected to exceed the regulatory height are permitted to compete until they have been measured at a Measuring Session. If the Pony is Measured Out, it can no longer compete as a Pony.
Ponies competing in CAIOs and Championships under 125 cm or over 145 cm with a National Measuring Certificate require an FEI Interim or Lifetime Measuring Certificate to compete in these Events.
A Measuring Session should be scheduled in the week latest prior to a Championship in near vicinity of the Championship venue in order to facilitate Athletes with Driving Ponies.

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Article No.–Article Name
Art. 1081 – Pony Measuring at FEI Measuring Sessions
Proposal from (Name of NF or MOU SH)
ICDA – International Carriage Drivers Association
Explanation for Proposed Change
Organizing a Pony Measuring Session is very costly, especially when only a few Ponies need to be measured (outside Europe, additional Measuring Session in order to provide an extra possibility to have Ponies measuring prior to a Championship). ICDA proposes to have less mandatory Officials present when only a few Ponies have to be measured. In order to promote the growth of Pony Driving, we urge the FEI to take a proactive role in reducing the financial and logistical barriers of conducting Pony measuring sessions.
1 March 2026: Proposed Wording by NFs/MOU SHs
11. A minimum of 3 Stewards, of which at least 1 must be an FEI Steward, must be appointed by the NF to facilitate the Pony Measuring procedure and ensure the safety of all participants. This includes and is not limited to: ensuring the efficient movement of Ponies into and out of the Measuring Area, assisting with identification, ensuring the Measuring Area does not become unnecessarily crowded and observing the Ponies in the lungeing / riding area. For Measuring Sessions with less than 20 horses, only 1 Steward will be required and the NF may appoint a person with knowledge of the sport to serve in the capacity of the Steward. 16. NFs must provide at least 3 stewards that are present for the entire Measuring Session and a licensed veterinarian on site or on call (but able to be on site during the measuring session) in case radiographs must be taken. For Measuring Sessions with less than 20 horses, only 1 Steward will be required.
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