

Requirements for Dressage Competition Management and Technical Delegates for Equipment Inspections

New DR 126 Rule:

Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas.

1. Tack Inspections. Inspection of saddlery and equipment (except bits) must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. Ring stewards appointed by competition management are required to inspect the saddlery, dress and equipment worn by at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. In championship classes, saddlery, dress and equipment inspections are required for each horse. When an inspection is conducted, all equipment including fly hoods, nosebands, curb chains, whips, bits, and spurs on both sides must be inspected. The ring steward must also inspect the horse for evidence of blood.

1.a. Exhibitors must present bridles and bits, if and when requested, to the technical delegate for inspection utilizing the methods, timeframe(s) and location(s) identified by competition management with the agreement of the technical delegate. These methods must be communicated to the competitors prior to the start of the competition. The technical delegate must inspect at least 50% of the bits and bridles of horses entered in the competition. Technical Delegates must also conduct random ringside bit checks immediately after rides are completed, some of which can be included in the 50%, using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse.

1.b. Inspection of saddlery and equipment is not required nor advised for group classes such as Dressage Seat Equitation and Materiale. When close inspection of saddlery, bits and equipment is required in order to determine compliance with DR 121 or other equipment provisions, a TD shall accompany the horse to its stall, trailer or other designated area to conduct such equipment inspections.

1.c. In Breed restricted classes at Regular competitions, a ring steward, at the direction of the technical delegate or C2 Steward (if eligible for the classes held), will do a hands-on inspection of saddlery and equipment including bits of at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena. New disposable protective gloves must be utilized with one on each hand for each horse.

1.d. When non-permitted bits, saddlery, or equipment are identified prior to the horse having worn the non-permitted items, there will be no elimination. Elimination will occur only when the horse is wearing non-permitted items or they are identified immediately after use.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR DR 126:

According to DR126, 50% of competitor bridles/bits must be inspected by the TD. To accomplish this:

1. Competition Management responsibilities:

A. Prior to the competition, discuss with the technical delegate what methods or protocols the TD, in consultation with competition management, wants to utilize at the competition to accomplish this.

B. An explanation of the methods that will be utilized for bits/bridle inspection and the protocol which will be followed at the competition should be sent out to competitors prior to the start of the competition. The methods that will be utilized should also be posted at the show where the competitors will see it. See sample message to competitors at the end of this document.

C. Management must provide the TD with a complete numerical competition roster, a stabling chart, and a list of non-stabled competitors upon their arrival in order to facilitate inspection. The TD will utilize these lists to select the required 50% of bridles/bits.

D. At Level 1-3 Competitions, the equipment checker(s) will utilize the Levels 1-3 Equipment Check instructions. These checks will be full hands-on checks minus the inspection of the bit(s) in the mouth. 1/3 of the riders in each class will be checked. Please utilize the 1-3 EC Instructions for each checker. See form. (URL address)

E. At Level 4-5 Competitions, the equipment checker(s) will utilize the Levels 4-5 Equipment Check Instructions. These checks will be full hands-on checks including the bit(s) in the mouth. All competitors will be checked. Please utilize the Levels 4-5 EC Instructions for each checker. Note that Level 3 classes at Level 4-5 competitions will use the 1-3 EC Instructions. See form. (URL address)

2. Technical Delegate responsibilities:

A. Discuss with competition management the equipment inspection methods that you wish to utilize at the competition. Ask to be copied on the email sent out to competitors.

B. A competition with multiple numbers, i.e. show 1 & show 2 are considered one competition for the purposes of the 50% of equipment checked.

C. Possible methods that can be utilized:

1. TDs will inspect available bridles/bits when they do their stable checks. This will be accomplished by walking the aisles of stabling, talking to competitors and asking to see their bits/bridles. This possibly will not require more than a visual inspection. If hands-on contact is required with bits, please be conscious of biosecurity. A pen could be used to move portions of the bit, or the individual could do it to show the TD. The TD could be hands-on and disinfectant used on their hands between horses or gloves could be used.

TDs will not enter a tackroom or touch any equipment without the competitor or their representative being present and/or permission being given. It is recommended to keep records of what bits/bridles the competitor has.

2. TDs will conduct random ring side equipment checks immediately after rides are completed. A percentage of these checks can be counted in the overall 50% required. Ride or haul in competitors could be those that are checked at the random ring side equipment checks.

As has happened in previous years, the competitor is alerted by the TD that their bit/bridle has been selected to be checked by the TD and this will occur at ringside. The TD will utilize a new glove on each hand during this inspection.

3. TDs may select random competitors after their rides and notify them that the TD will follow them to their stalls/trailers to complete a bits/bridle inspection. After the bridle is removed, the TD will inspect the bridle/bits. A new glove will be utilized on each hand for this inspection.

4. The following approaches are possible but may not be feasible as things happen and set times will often go awry. Although these are possible inspection methods, they are more problematic as setting times or announcing times and having competitors expect it to happen then will often not work as the TD gets called away to an issue or does not arrive early enough to walk the grounds.

- a. If the TD arrives on the show grounds the day before the competition starts, they could walk the stables.
- b. During the competition, announcements could be made that the TD is available for equipment inspection at a set time and location. Alternative times could be arranged by contacting the TD directly.

D. If the TD is unable to reach 50% of the equipment, due to unforeseen circumstances that occur at the competition, please note this in the competition addendum with an explanation.

SAMPLE: This is a possible example of the notification to send to competitors before the competition by email and to be posted at the competition.

TO ALL COMPETITORS:

There is a new DR 126 rule concerning equipment checks. The rule is as follows:

1.a. Exhibitors must present bridles and bits, if and when requested, to the technical delegate for inspection utilizing the methods, timeframe(s) and location(s) identified by competition management with the agreement of the technical delegate. These methods must be communicated to the competitors prior to the start of the competition. The technical delegate must inspect at least 50% of the bits and bridles of horses entered in the competition. Technical Delegates must also conduct random ringside bit checks immediately after rides are completed, some of which can be included in the 50%, using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse.

In order to facilitate compliance with the new rule during the competition, the Technical Delegate will be checking equipment utilizing the following methods.

1. The TD will be circulating through the stabling areas routinely during the competition. When you see them, please provide your bridles/bits for inspection.
2. If your bridle is hanging on the stall front with your number, they may be able to inspect it without you having to be present. They will not touch any equipment without someone being present. They will not enter your tack rooms without permission.
3. TDs will conduct random ring side equipment checks immediately after rides are completed. Ride in or haul in competitors may be some of those that are checked at the random ring side equipment checks.
4. TDs may select random competitors after their rides and notify them that they will follow them to their stalls/trailers to complete a bits/bridle inspection. After the bridle is removed, the TD will inspect the bridle/bits.
5. The following approaches are also a possibility but may not be feasible as things happen and set times will often go awry. If the TD arrives on the show grounds the day before the competition starts, they possibly will be able to walk the stables. During the competition, announcements may be made that the TD is available for equipment inspection at a set time and location. Alternative times could be arranged by contacting the TD directly.

Thank you for your help in our being able to comply with the new rule. As this is new for everyone, please bear with us as we work out the kinks in this new protocol. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to management or the TD.