



HEALTH, SAFETY AND REGULATORY MEASURES 2008

FACT SHEET
January 23, 2008

Measure	Safety Reins
Overview	Through the phased-in introduction of safety reins for all breeds of racing, the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) is committed to improving the safety of participants and ensuring the welfare of the horse. The ORC is prepared to work with industry representatives to allow for the development of a product that meets the needs of Ontario licensees.
Effective Dates	Establish a working group with horsepeople and suppliers to address issues surrounding potential standards, construction, supply and application. Issuance of Directive on rule change January 31, 2008, with rule to be effective as follows: Use of safety reins when racing - by January 1, 2009 Use of safety reins when training - by July 1, 2009
Background	In the past, the failure of reins has caused catastrophic injuries to participants and horses. Safety reins are viewed as a positive step forward in the prevention of serious injury to licensees and the horses. The proposed rules below would make it an offence for a horse not to be equipped with safety reins while exercising, working, training or racing on the grounds of a licensed racetrack. The Ohio Racing Commission recently approved a similar rule regarding safety reins, which will become effective on July 1, 2008. In California, a review of the 6 month trial of safety reins will be received by that Board shortly.
Rules	Thoroughbred Rules New Thoroughbred Rule 29.04.01 A trainer shall be responsible to ensure that all horses under his/her care and control, while training or racing on Association grounds are properly equipped with <i>safety reins</i> . Failure to do so will result in a fine and/or suspension.

New Thoroughbred Rule - Chapter 2 Definitions

“Safety Rein” is a rein that provides a secure secondary attachment to the bit that is originally constructed during manufacture and attached to a reinforcement material designed to prevent failure due to breakage of the line, or breakage or inadvertent loss of the primary connection to the bit.

Standardbred Rules**New Standardbred Rule 26.12.01**

A trainer shall be responsible to ensure that all horses under his/her care and control, while training or racing on Association grounds are properly equipped with *safety reins*. Failure to do so will result in a fine and/or suspension.

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