



HEALTH, SAFETY AND REGULATORY MEASURES 2008

FACT SHEET
January 23, 2008

Measure	Safety Vests
Overview	The safety of racing participants is of vital concern to the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC). Already in place for Thoroughbred racing, safety vests will now be mandatory for any person driving a horse on ORC licensed facilities. In recognition of the costs and potential supply issues, the requirement to wear the vest will follow a phased-in approach, from 8 to 16 months.
Effective Dates	Issuance of Directive on rule change January 31, 2008 with effective dates as follows: Drivers – October 1, 2008 Trainers & Grooms – June 1, 2009
Background	<p>More than 15 years ago, safety vests were made mandatory in thoroughbred racing. The severity of race related and training related injuries was reduced significantly and participants are satisfied with the success of the initiative. Safety vests are required whenever a rider is mounted on a horse on the Association grounds.</p> <p>Extending the safety vest program to Standardbred racing makes good sense. A series of severe injuries that may have been mitigated by the wearing of a vest makes this initiative urgent. Requiring the use of safety vests at all times while driving a horse on ORC licensed facilities will help protect all participants.</p> <p>Other jurisdictions such as Kentucky and New Jersey have legislated a safety vest rule. In Ontario, there are 1,400 drivers and over 3,000 trainers that would be affected by this proposed change in policy.</p>
Rule	<p>New Standardbred Rule 6.29.01 A safety vest, meeting the standards for protective safety vest, must be worn at all times on the premises of an Association when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) racing, parading or warming up a horse prior to racing; orb) jogging, training or exercising a horse at any time. <p>A violation of this rule will result in a suspension and/or fine.</p>