



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737

## Horse Industry Organization

August 12, 2010

During the August 10, 2010 teleconference, the Horse Industry Organization (HIO) was informed of the following actions for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act and Regulations for 2011:

The recommended penalty protocol in 2010 will now be mandatory in 2011. The penalty protocol will need to be added to all HIO Rulebooks, which will now require approval prior to the 2011 Show Season.

During the "age of enforcement" as the Department reviews statutory authorities, there may be additional changes to the points of emphasis for 2011 that should not impact the mandatory penalty protocol.

Suspensions and disqualifications issued by the Department or an HIO are currently to be enforced by all HIOs and show managements.

The Department will review the current penalties for each HIO to ensure that they are not less stringent than those required in the mandatory penalty protocol for 2011.

The Department will provide additional guidance on the timeline for submitting the rule book and the length of time for the review process.

If there are any further changes that will affect the 2011 Show Season, written correspondence will be sent by the Department to notify HIOs of the changes.

You may contact our office if you have additional questions.

Chester A. Gipson  
Deputy Administrator  
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