

Fitness Inspection “Trot-Up”

For CDI 1* CDI 3*, CDIU25, CDI-Y CDIJ horses

Below are (highly edited) rules for the Fitness Inspection. (FEI Veterinary Regulations, Art. 1032 and associated articles and the FEI Stewards Manual) and FEI General Regulations.

The aim of the standardised horse inspection protocol is to ensure the “fitness to compete”.

- The **person responsible** should present the horse unless the person responsible has been excused from this requirement by the inspection panel in advance by the President of the GJ. Riders are to advise their intention via the FEI Chief Steward prior to the start of the inspection.
- Horses presented in either a snaffle or double bridle with Identification – (eg, bridle number).
- Handlers should be neatly dressed (*OC suggests suitable shoes for running*)
- No horse may be presented with its identity concealed in any manner (e.g. no rugs, bandages or other equipment, **no dye or paint on horses or hooves**)
- Handlers may carry a whip of up to 1.2m only.
- Earplugs are permitted at the inspection (Art. 6.3 FEI Dressage Rules).
- The inspection must take place on a firm, level and clean but not slippery surface.
- The horse must be presented in front of the Veterinary Commission/Delegate and Member(s) of the Ground Jury. (see Fig. 1).
- The Veterinary Commission/Delegate must check the identity of the horse and note any obvious sign of injury or disease.
- The horse must be walked (approx. 10 paces) and trotted on a loose rein (30-40 m) with the handler on the left (see illustration). The Veterinary Commission/Delegate and/or the Member(s) of the Ground Jury must note any signs of lameness.
- If necessary, walk and trot may be repeated. Unless special permission is given by the Veterinary Commission/Delegate and/or the Members of the Ground Jury.
- Before the horse leaves the inspection site, the Member of the Ground Jury must announce the decision of the inspecting panel:

- Accepted - Not accepted - Re-inspection

In a doubtful case the Inspecting Panel may direct that the horse be placed in an officially supervised holding area for a further inspection immediately after the last horse has been inspected. The Examining Veterinarian, who must have specific orthopedic experience, will, in consultation with the Team Veterinarian or the Individual Competitors' Private Veterinarian, examine the horse while it is in the holding area. He will report his findings to the Inspecting Committee which will then re-inspect the horse and make a final decision. The responsibility for accepting or not accepting horses to compete is shared between the Ground Jury and the Veterinary Commission/Delegate, but should be based on the professional opinion of the veterinarians.

- Chefs d'Equipe must be present with their team horses in addition to their grooms and/or their competitors.
- Persons Responsible (competitors) must be present with individual horses, in addition to their grooms.
- All those involved with the horse undergoing inspection must be neatly attired.
- It is emphasised that this is not a detailed veterinary examination and it should be completed as quickly as possible, consistent with achieving its purpose.
- No appeal may be lodged against any decision made by the Inspection panel.

