

Important Notice to Industry Participants

Changes to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008*

Harness Racing Victoria has been advised by the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Bureau of Animal Welfare, that new provisions have come into effect with respect to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008*.

A key change to the regulations that participants must be aware of is outlined under Section 8 with respect to the use of mouthpieces where it states:

“A person must not use a mouthpiece on a horse if the mouthpiece is twisted at the point where the device is in contact with the bar of the horse’s mouth.”

Given the above provisions, all participants are on notice that use of twisted pulling bits or twisted bits used for any other purpose within the definition of the above regulation is an offence. This extends to use at races, trials or at any other time.

Stewards will be closely monitoring head gear at race meetings, trials and on stable visitations to ensure that no person is in breach of the new provisions. Should a participant fail to comply with this notice the horse in question may be scratched from a race or trial and action will be taken.

It should be noted that under the law the maximum penalty attached to each offence is one of 10 penalty units or \$1,168.

Information on this change and others can be downloaded from www.dpi.vic.gov.au/animalwelfare (follow the links to legislation page).