



INDUSTRY NOTICE – Banned gear

Harness Racing Australia has made additions to approved and banned gear as a result of discussions at the recent meeting of Chief Stewards and Veterinary Officers. Consideration is given to the need of the item, alternative items available, horse welfare and integrity when these decisions are made

Banned Gear – Twisted Wire, Rope and Chain bits

The use of chain, twisted wire or rope pulling bits (irrespective of covering), or devices which constrict a horses jaw, is banned. Items that wrap around the jaw and which are designed to severely tighten on the jaw when pulled create an animal welfare issue. These particular items can cause permanent damage to a horses jaw and are therefore not permitted to be used.

The use of twisted wire bits are banned for any purpose in the State of Victoria under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008.

Some examples of banned bits are:

Spanish Pulling Bit



Chain bit with leather covering



The banning in the use of these items is effective immediately.

For any comment or for additional details please contact Gary Kairn, Operations Manager, Harness Racing Australia on (03) 9227 3003.

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