



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737

June 28, 2012

Re: Final Rule, Docket #: APHIS-2011-0030

Dear Horse Industry Organizations and Associations:

APHIS has received questions on 9 C.F.R. § 11.25(b)(3) of its final rule requiring horse industry organizations and associations (HIOs) to assess and enforce minimum penalties under the Horse Protection Act (HPA). **This notice clarifies that individuals found to be in violation by an HIO are only suspended from participating in the shows, exhibitions, sales, or auctions that the HIO issuing the suspension is affiliated with, and are not precluded under the final rule from participating in shows affiliated with other HIOs.** However, HIOs and show managers can still choose to honor suspensions issued by other HIOs, as many currently do. Additionally, all HIOs and show managers are required under the HPA to recognize USDA federal disqualification periods.

Sincerely,

Chester A. Gipson
Deputy Administrator
Animal Care

cc: Dr. Rachel Cezar; National Horse Protection Coordinator



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