



## Parade Ring Safety

The following advice has been agreed by the NTF and the NARS to assist trainers when sending their staff racing and in particular with regard to parade ring safety.

### Trainers should consider:

- how competent is the employee?
- what are the characteristics of the horse?
- is the employee suitably experienced to go racing?
- is the employee suitably experienced taking into consideration the nature of the horse he or she is taking?
- is any personal protective equipment appropriate?

### Trainers should ensure:

- the employee wears suitable clothing and any safety equipment the trainer has decided is appropriate
- staff wear appropriate footwear
- (if sending an employee for whom English is not their first language) the employee has sufficient English to understand instructions given to him or her by race course officials
- employees are aware of unusual or specific arrangements, for example:
  - where a parade is required
  - courses where horses are led in the opposite direction to normal
- employees are told not to walk across the middle of the parade ring unless they are specifically instructed to do so by racecourse staff for safety reasons (e.g. when a presentation is taking place at one end of the parade ring)
- employees are aware of specific dangers, for example, when pulling rugs off horses
- if horses are mounted at the walk, instructions are given to the jockey to check/tighten the girth before leaving the paddock.

## Further guidance

### Report

Trainers should put in place a reporting format, so that if a horse is badly behaved in the stables, saddling area, pre-parade or parade ring this is reported back – the trainer will need this information to risk assess the horse's next outing.

### Consult

Trainers should consult with their employees over health and safety issues – ensure they are competent to go racing, know what they are doing and if they have any concerns feel able to discuss them.

### Tack

Horses should be led in bridles or chifneys at all times whilst on racecourse premises. Leading horses with a shank or lip chain (the latter with a Veterinary Officer's approval only) complies with BHA instructions. The use of a headcollar only is insufficient.

### Race meetings

Trainers should take into account that at important race meetings the parade ring is likely to be very busy with more horses, more people and bigger crowds and ensure that staff taking horses racing to such meetings are aware of these factors.

## Extract from the British Horseracing Authority guidance to Health and Safety in the Racing and Breeding Industry 2013 ("the Red Book")

Clothing should be appropriate to the job.

Any equipment deemed to be necessary for the safe undertaking of a task is interpreted as Personal Protective Equipment and must be provided free of charge. Further guidance on Personal Protective Equipment is contained in paragraph 14 of the sample health and safety policy at chapter 1 of the Red Book.

Jewellery (earrings, rings, bracelets, cosmetic studs inserted through the skin, etc) should not be worn when employees are in contact with horses. Wristwatches are permissible but should have a leather or synthetic strap, rather than a metal bracelet in order to minimise risk.

Long hair should be tied back or secured so as not to impair vision or to risk entanglement with equipment, tack or horses.

Soaps and perfumes, which might arouse colts, should not be worn.