

## ELECTRIC FENCES (ELECTRIFIED TAPE) FOR TEMPORARY ENCLOSURES FOR HORSES ON SHOWGROUNDS

### INFORMATION FOR HORSE EXHIBITORS

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#### INTRODUCTION

From the date of issue of this information, a Show Society may determine that the use of electric fences as temporary enclosures for horses is permissible on its ground with traditional insurance cover if:

1. the Society recognises a need for the use of such enclosures;
2. the Society can establish suitable areas for such enclosures given the size and configuration of the ground and other activities which may be taking place on the ground and impacting on the safe use of the enclosures;
3. the willingness of the Society to accept responsibility for carrying out the Risk Assessment and Management essential to this undertaking.

If the Show Society determines that it will accept the burden of managing the use of electric fences on its ground, it will decide exactly where they can be erected and their sizes and shapes. Horse exhibitors will be responsible for erecting their own yards after gaining precise information on the location and dimensions of the space allocated for each yard.

#### CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS

- In order to minimise the chance of wilful escape, yards must be constructed of two strands of conductive tape set at suitable heights to contain the intended equine occupants.
- The tapes should be attached with insulated fasteners to well-driven steel pickets (star posts) fitted with protective plastic caps or the equivalent pickets in plastic or fibreglass.
- The tapes must be energized by an Australian Standards compliant battery-powered energizer (no mains power) of sufficient capacity for the fence it is energizing.
- Each yard should be reasonably square and preferably at least 16 square metres in area.
- Each externally facing fence of each yard must exhibit a sign at least 200mm by 100mm carrying indelibly in a contrasting colour on both sides, both the customary symbol and (in letters at least 25mm high) the words "(TAKE CARE) - ELECTRIC FENCE".
- While electrical connection between yards is permissible, interconnection of actual yards should be avoided.
- In the construction of yards, care should be taken to ensure that no situations are created where entrapment of any loose horse or any person could occur where avoidance of electric fence contact is virtually impossible.
- All components of the fence must be in reliable functioning order, including a sufficient supply of batteries, maintenance being the responsibility of the horse exhibitor, and the fence function tested after erection/installation is complete.

#### CONCLUSION

While it is easy for those accustomed to working with electric fences to shrug off the occasional zap, it only takes a moment's reflection to realise that an installation capable of jolting a horse into staying clear is inherently risky, especially to the old, the young and the infirm in a public place, and needs, therefore, some careful management.