



**TEXAS RACING COMMISSION**  
**P.O. Box 12080**  
**Austin, Texas 78711-2080**  
**(512) 833-6699**

July 3, 2024

To: All Business and Occupational Licensees of the Texas Racing Commission

Subject: 2024 Safety Program Focus: **Training Facilities**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this letter is to provide all licensees additional information on the agency's efforts to work in partnership with appointed Racing Officials to emphasize safety practices and compliance with established rules. Safety is a shared responsibility when preparing for, engaging in and recovering from live racing events for every member of the industry and the agency staff. To that end, our safety focus remains on:

**Training Facility Rule Changes:** On March 27, 2024, updated rules to address safety practices during Training Facility operations went into effect and are available for review on the Texas Secretary of State website, [Texas Administrative Code](#).

**Racing Officials.** Racing Official occupational licenses are approved by the Executive Director. Racing Officials are appointed by the racetrack association and licensed by the Commission to hold a special position of trust that requires they perform their duties in a manner that ensure the protection of the racehorses and participants.<sup>1</sup>

**Official Works.** Racing officials supervising official works have key responsibilities in documenting the positions that have responsibilities during Training Facility operations. For example, the horse identifier is required to identify each horse before each official workout. The current rules require that the "original registration papers for each horse that is to work, or a copy that satisfies the horse identifier, must be submitted to the horse identifier before the horse's initial workout at the facility to permit the identifier to record the horse's color, gender, markings, and tattoo number, if applicable. The horse identifier shall inspect all documents of ownership, registration, or breeding necessary to ensure the proper identification of the horse at each official work. Official works are a critical component of eligibility to enter a race as is the certification that the horse is good health to participate in the race.<sup>2</sup>

**Identification Procedures.** Racetrack associations who also operate as training facilities were notified on June 15, 2024 that identification procedures, which are subject to the approval of the Executive Director, would be modified on June 25, 2024, to require that the Racing Office provide the agency staff a list of horses that would be participating in official works to ensure that the appropriate documentation was in place in the racing office before official works are conducted.<sup>3</sup> The request for a list to be provided to the Chief Veterinarian is in line with the procedures that are already outlined in the rules to provide the opportunity for the agency to verify that the horses are in good health and sound before and after the official work. All licensees are responsible for ensuring that official works are appropriately documented since they one of the key factors considered for eligibility for entry into a race.

**#SafetyStartsHere** - As we continue to engage in official works and live racing events across the state - I ask everyone to stay vigilant to keep the horses and all those who riding, train and care for them safe. If you would like to nominate a safety champion -- please visit our website at [www.txrc.texas.gov/safetyprograms](http://www.txrc.texas.gov/safetyprograms) to learn more about our safety programs.

Sincerely,

*Amy F. Cook*

Amy F. Cook  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> See 16 TAC 313.4, Approval of Officials

<sup>2</sup> See 16 TAC 313.103, Eligibility Requirements; 16 TAC 311.104, Trainers

<sup>3</sup> See 16 TAC 313.505(c) Workout Requirements