



United States
Department of
Agriculture

June 8, 2012

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737

This notice coincides with a stakeholder call regarding the publication of a final rule requiring Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) to assess and enforce minimum penalties as set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for violations of the Horse Protection Act (HPA) and the regulations. You are receiving this notice because you are a currently certified HIO.

All stakeholders and HIOs have been notified electronically that the final rule is published at the following link:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/06/07/2012-13759/horse-protection-act-requiring-horse-industry-organizations-to-assess-and-enforce-minimum-penalties#h-28>.

Any and all changes to the regulations made in the final rule, including the minimum penalty structure, shall be effective exactly 30 days after publication which at this time is July 9, 2012. If your organization has not yet formally adopted the minimum penalty protocol, you will have those 30 days in which to do so. Adoption of the penalty protocol as well as the appeal process must be evidenced to APHIS by way of an addendum to this year's rulebook or other equally sufficient means 30 days from publication of final rule. This documentation must be submitted to the USDA APHIS Horse Protection Program 4700 River Road, Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737. Any HIO that fails to provide proof of such adoption may receive a decertification notice in accordance with the updated 9 C.F.R. §11.7.

Sincerely,

Chester A. Gipson
Deputy Administrator
Animal Care

Cc: Dr. Rachel Cezar, National Horse Protection Coordinator



afeguarding American Agriculture

APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Federal Relay Service
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)
1-800-877-8339