

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
BEFORE THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS: Lina M. Khan, Chair  
Rebecca Kelly Slaughter  
Alvaro M. Bedoya  
Melissa Holyoak  
Andrew Ferguson

ORDER APPROVING THE REGISTRATION RULE MODIFICATION PROPOSED BY  
THE HORSERACING INTEGRITY AND SAFETY AUTHORITY  
April 19, 2024

I. Background

have been in effect for enough time to provide all stakeholders with an opportunity to evaluate them.”<sup>5</sup> Accordingly, the Commission directed the Authority “

Two public comments were filed in response to the Commission's Federal Register notice. The Authority provided its response to the filed comments by letter to the Commission.

One comment by a veterinarian, objected to the proposed requirement in HISA Rule 9000(d) that Veterinarians provide their license number for each jurisdiction in which they are currently licensed by state veterinary licensing authorities. The commenter opined: "[t]he ability of HISA to check on our state veterinary license status seems to be overreaching their authority as a racing authority, not a veterinary authority. That is the job of the state veterinary board, and both tracks that I have worked at require signatures from the track-employed commission veterinarians who verify our state licensure status prior to allowing us to obtain a racing commission license in that state." The Authority responded that there are several instances in the Racetrack Safety Rules that specifically require Veterinarians who provide veterinarian services to Covered Horses to be licensed in the applicable jurisdiction. The Authority stated that the new provisions of Rule 9000(d) will allow the Authority to verify compliance with the Racetrack Safety Rules. Given that the Act identifies Veterinarians as "Covered Persons,"<sup>14</sup> and given that the Authority's Racetrack Safety Rules expressly apply to Veterinarians, the Commission concludes that the proposed registration requirement for Veterinarians is consistent with the Act.

The second comment opined that horse racing should be eliminated, rather than having veterinary standards, and stated, "[t]here is no excuse for permitting extreme pushing of these animals to the breaking point, either by leg fractures which cause the horses to be put down, or

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<sup>12</sup> The FTC posted this letter on regulations.gov as a related document on Docket #2024-0020. See <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/FTC-2024-0020>

<sup>13</sup> Cmt. of Erin Barrett, <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/FTC-2024-0020-0004>

<sup>14</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 3051(6).

other causes of deaths in horse racing.<sup>15</sup> The Authority responded that this comment is not relevant to any decisional criteria provided by the Act, which are whether the proposed modification is consistent with the Act and the Commission's procedural rules. The Commission agrees.

III.

For the foregoing reasons, the Authority's proposed modification to the Registration Rule is APPROVED.

By the Commission.

April J. Tabor  
Secretary