



Australian Indoor/Outdoor Horse Driving

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Adapted from the Indoor Horse Driving Trials UK Rules (2012)

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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Background | 3 |
| ACDS Horse Welfare Policy | 4 |
| ACDS Code of Conduct | 5 |
| 1. Introduction | 6 |
| 2. Organization | 6 |
| 3. Classes | 9 |
| 4. Horses | 9 |
| 5. Vehicles | 9 |
| 6. Harness | 10 |
| 7. Competition Phase 1 – Precision and Paces | 10 |
| 8. Competition Phase 2 – Cones | 12 |
| 9. Competition Phase 3 – Obstacles | 13 |
| 10. First Season Drivers | 15 |
| 11. Qualification for Finals | 15 |
| 12. Scoring | 15 |
| 13. Health and Safety | 15 |
| Annex A: Summary of Officials | 16 |
| Annex B: Arena | 17 |
| Annex C: Sample Scoring Sheet | 18 |
| Annex D: Scoring Instructions | 19 |

Disclaimer

All drivers and their navigators/grooms compete at their own risk. Neither the ACDS, nor their appointed officials accept any liability for any accident, theft, illness or damage to horses, grooms or any person or property whatsoever. All drivers, by entering this event, agree to be bound by this regulation, and agree to be bound by this regulation, and agree to pay the excess that applies to any insurance claim which may arise from my participation in this event.

BACKGROUND

Over ten years ago, Victorian members requested permission of the Indoor Horse Driving Trials Club in UK, to use their rules. Once granted, a new, exciting competition was introduced to Victoria.

In 2001-2, an Indoor event was a component of the Melbourne 3 Day Event held at Werribee Park and Euroa had proved that an indoor event need not be confined by four walls when they hosted an Indoor/Outdoor competition in September 2001. Both these events were extremely successful.

In the following few years, members of the Bellarine Club (now Geelong & District Carriage Drivers Inc) embraced the Indoor competitions. Their intention was to implement an off-season competition that the club members could operate, with minimum fuss. The Bellarine competitions were also very successful. In fact, they were so successful that the Bellarine Club decided to offer an Indoor series to Victoria, encouraging other clubs to host qualifying competitions.

Without the foresight of these members and their clubs, we would not have the opportunity to enjoy our current Indoor competitions. In addition, we would also lack our ability to offer these events as a platform, encouraging new drivers, and officials, to develop their competition driving skills.

In August 2016, the Victorian branch offered the share the Indoor Rules with other ACDS Clubs throughout Australia.

ACDS HORSE WELFARE POLICY

The Australian Carriage Driving Society places the utmost importance on the welfare of the Horse as the primary consideration in all carriage driving activities.

Horse welfare must never be compromised by competitive or commercial interests and all ACDS members are expected to accept and abide by this principle.

ACDS Rules, Guidelines and Risk Management Policies are intended to improve Horse welfare standards. The Rules, Guidelines and Policies are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure effective promotion and implementation of best-practice Horse welfare by ACDS Members.

Regardless of the carriage driving activity or discipline, the following over-arching Horse welfare principles apply:

- **At all stages during preparation, training and use of carriage Horses & ponies, welfare must take precedence over other demands.**

This includes ensuring good Horse management; using training methods which are appropriate to the physical and mental capabilities of the Horse and which do not result in pain or fear; use of harness and carriages which are correctly fitted and do not cause pain or injury; a high standard of farriery and foot care; and appropriate methods of transport.

- **Horses & ponies must be fit, competent and capable and in good health, appropriate to the type of activity and the specific demands.**

This includes ensuring an adequate level of fitness for the activity, applying appropriate Horse-health and bio-security practices; and allowing adequate recovery time following veterinary treatment.

- **Activities must not prejudice Horse welfare.**

Venues, stabling / yards, courses and their components must be designed and maintained with the safety of the Horse in mind. Competitions and activities must take into consideration the best interests of the Horses involved. The effects of extreme weather must be taken into account and mitigated as appropriate.

- **Every effort must be made to ensure Horses & Ponies receive proper and humane treatment during their lives.**

This includes provision of adequate veterinary and health care; the prompt and appropriate treatment of injury or illness; sympathetic and humane treatment during retirement; and where necessary, appropriate methods of euthanasia to minimise suffering.

The ACDS supports the ongoing awareness and skills development of its members in relation to Horse welfare and encourages all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest levels of knowledge in relation to care & management of the Horse.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose of the Code

This Code of Conduct is intended to outline the behaviour expectations for Members of the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc. (ACDS) and those associated with Members at ACDS activities. Federal Council recognises that the ACDS is made up of incorporated bodies and clubs in each State of Australia and that each State has laws that may be relevant to a Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct is intended to set broad over-arching principles, which shall be incorporated into each State's/Club's Code of Conduct, subject to these principles complying with the laws applicable to the relevant State.

This Code of Conduct is to be read in conjunction with the Rules and Regulations of the ACDS and other policies of the ACDS and its State bodies as applicable from time to time.

Expectations

Members of the ACDS and their associates are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the best interests of the ACDS and is commensurate with the expectations of the broader membership, community standards and the law. Members are encouraged to develop and maintain an inclusive environment that promotes participation.

Behaviour, which may be considered as discriminatory, bullying, intimidatory, violent or of a harassing (sexual or otherwise) nature will not be tolerated. Unjust or intemperate criticism of other members or behaviour that brings the Society and/or sport into disrepute is similarly not acceptable.

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| <p>Of principle expectation for all ACDS members and those associated with members, is compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the ACDS and the Society's Horse Welfare Policy.</p> |
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More Specifically:

Drivers/Participants and their Associates are expected to behave in a courteous, respectful and sporting manner; comply with the rules of the relevant activity and any reasonable direction from an official. Horse Welfare considerations shall always take priority over competitive or commercial interests.

Officials and Volunteers are expected to conduct themselves professionally; be respectful towards participants and other officials/volunteers; take all reasonable steps to ensure activities are conducted in a safe and fair manner and comply with the ACDS's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Office Bearers at a Club, State and Federal Level are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner; take all reasonable steps to ensure the Society is meeting its legal and constitutional obligations; declare any conflict of interest that may arise in the course of fulfilling their role and, in all decisions, act in the best interests of the ACDS and its membership.

Coaches and Trainers are expected to adhere to and promote best-practice in Horse Welfare; at all times act in the best interests of their client, comply with the ACDS's Conflict of Interest Policy and take all reasonable steps to ensure the training process is conducted in a safe and positive environment.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 These rules apply for Indoor/Outdoor Horse Driving Events in Australia. They are based on the Indoor Horse Driving Trials UK Rules (2012) and adapted to suit Australian competitions. While these rules try to cover all normal cases, if more technical detail is needed, the ACDS Rules for Australian Combined Driving Events, as in force at the beginning of the current season should apply.
- 1.2 All events must adhere to these rules, however, if something outside the rules needs a decision, it is the duty of the Event Manager to make a decision in the spirit of the sport, adhering as closely as possible to these rules.
- 1.3 Each indoor/outdoor season will offer a minimum of four qualifying events.
- 1.4 It is preferable but not mandatory that the qualifying events are held in an indoor arena.
It is preferable but not mandatory that the finals shall be held in an indoor arena.

2 Organisation

2.1 Entries

- 2.1.1 The schedule of events and entry forms are published by ACDS host Clubs. Entries are only accepted if prepaid and on the appropriate form.
- 2.1.2 The organiser reserves the right to refuse any entry, with or without stating a reason.

2.2 Officials (also see Summary of Requirements at Annex A on page 16)

2.2.1 Event Manager

The control of an event rests with the Event Manager, whose decisions are final. They may delegate any duties to stewards considered competent.

2.2.2 Not Used

2.2.3 Course Designer

The Course Designer must be either qualified and selected from the ACDS list **or** a technically minded person with knowledge of carriage driving and is responsible, with the support of the Event Manager, for:

- laying out and measuring the Dressage arena;
- designing, laying out and measuring the Cones course; and
- laying out and measuring the course, and the construction of the obstacles.

2.2.4 Cones Judge

The chief role of the Cones Judge is to judge and document Phase 2 of the competition. One judge may act as the Cones and Obstacle Judge.

2.2.5 Obstacle Judge

The chief role of the Obstacle Judge is to judge and document Phase 3 of the competition. One judge may act as the Cones and Obstacle Judge.

2.2.6 Precision and Paces Judges

One of the Precision or Paces judges at a qualifying event must be from the ACDS list of judges. The second judge may be:

- on the ACDS list of judges,
- a competent and suitably qualified ridden dressage judge; or
- an experienced driven dressage judge.

For the championship, both the Precision and Paces Judges must be from the ACDS list of judges.

2.3 Conflict of Interest

2.3.1 It is recognised that for practical reasons officials at indoor events may also be connected with drivers who may compete. Officials are always required to show a high standard of fairness and to minimise any conflicts of interest, especially on subjective decisions.

2.3.2 It is not practical to rule out trainers, family or even drivers from helping out and acting as officials at indoor events, owing the relatively small pool of interested, willing and competent people available. Nonetheless, organisers are urged to ensure events are both run scrupulously fairly and clearly seen to be fair. It is important to stick exactly to clear rules that are the same for all. If potentially controversial decisions arise, try to ensure a person unconnected with any affected party is consulted.

2.4 Drivers and Grooms

2.4.1 All drivers must be current financial members of the ACDS before competing at any qualifying event. Grooms do not need to be ACDS members.

2.4.2 The minimum age of a driver competing at an Indoor/Outdoor event is 8 years of age. A member who is 8-10 years of age inclusive must be accompanied in the vehicle by an ACDS adult member (an experienced driving person) seated alongside at all times and holding a second pair of reins attached to the bit. A member who is aged 11 to 15 years of age must be accompanied in the vehicle by an ACDS adult member (an experienced driving person) who must be facing forward.

- 2.4.3 The minimum age of a driver in a non-competitive participation class will be as per the ACDS bylaw relating to Junior Drivers and any additional requirements for Junior Drivers as specified in these rules.
- 2.4.4 The minimum driver age for stallions and multiples will be as per ACDS bylaw relating to Junior Drivers and any additional requirements for Junior Drivers as specified in these rules.
- 2.4.5 The minimum age of grooms will be as per the ACDS Rules for Australian Combined Driving Events as in force at the beginning of the current season.
- 2.4.6 Pony and horse fours must have a driver and two grooms. Subject to clause 2.4.5, all other classes must have a driver and one groom. Extra people are not allowed on the vehicle, except multiples, who may carry one further person as a passenger (i.e. 2 passengers) if the Event Manager agrees.
- 2.4.7 A small pony may compete without a groom/backstepper on the vehicle.
- 2.4.8 For singles, the groom may sit beside the driver or stand on the back step. In all other classes the groom must stand on the back step.
- 2.4.9 During competition and warm up, everyone on the vehicle must wear a suitably secured. equine activity protective helmet. All helmets must comply with the relevant ACDS bylaw.
- 2.4.10 Drivers may compete in one class with more than one combination and seek qualification for the final with each of those combinations.
- Note:** A 'combination' is defined as a driver and the horse/s or pony/ies they are driving.
- 2.4.11 There is no dress code, but warm, comfortable marathon gear is encouraged. Drivers must wear gloves and carry a whip
- 2.4.12 In all phases a driver number must be clearly displayed and easily visible.
- 2.4.13 Grooms and passengers are not allowed to give assistance, including verbal or physical directions, sliding, lifting or moving the vehicle in any way during precision and paces or cones. Contravening this will incur 20 penalties for the driver for each incident.
- 2.4.14 Clearly visible medical information bands must be worn by drivers and grooms at all times whilst on a vehicle in Victoria.

3. Classes

- 3.1
 1. Very Small Equines (under 91cm)
 2. Single Small Pony: 91cm & ne 124cm
 3. Single Pony: 124cm & ne 149cm
 4. Single Horse: Over 149cm
 5. Multiples, any height
 6. First Season Driver

Note: Joggers allowed in all classes (except multiples), 125cm min wheel width.

- 3.2 A Junior class may be run at the discretion of organisers at qualifying events but not at the final.
- 3.3 A 'Club' class may be held at the discretion of the organisers. This is intended for newcomers to the sport or new horses. It does not count towards qualification for the Finals and rules may be relaxed for this class to allow, for example, a groom to prompt the driver for the paces and precision test. The driver must be a current financial member of the ACDS before competing.
- 3.4 Other classes may be introduced at a qualifier at the discretion of organisers.

4. Horses

- 4.1 All animals must be at least 4 years old and registered with the ACDS to compete.
- 4.2 An equine which is more than 148 cm high without shoes or more than 149 cm with shoes is classified as horse. Below this is classified as pony. Small pony is under 124 cm with shoes. Ponies up to the height limit may be required to provide an accepted certificate stating the size of the pony with/without shoes.
- 4.3 There is no minimum or maximum height.
- 4.4 Animals may wear boots and/or bandages during all phases of the competition. These must be removed for inspection if requested by an official.

5. Vehicles

- 5.1 The combination will use the same vehicle for all three phases.
- 5.2 Vehicles will be of a marathon or three-phase type. Pneumatic tyres are permitted but scurry vehicles are NOT permitted. Vehicles may have two or four wheels.
- 5.3 Grooms are recommended to stand on the back step in the obstacles and must do so on four wheel vehicles.
- 5.4 Minimum weights do not apply but all vehicles must be of a construction suitable for the competition.

- 5.5 The minimum width for all phases of the competition is 125cm. This is measured at ground level on the widest part of the rear wheels. Width extensions by 'wheel hoops', or 'scurry bars' are not allowed.
- 5.6 There is no maximum width requirement, but note that cones widths will not be increased for any over-width vehicles.
- 5.7 Vehicles may be measured at any stage during the competition.

6. Harness

- 6.1 Any type of harness is allowed provided it is safe and appropriate for the welfare of the horse.
- 6.2 Auxiliary reins (including any type of check reins) are not permitted, except for dual reins for very young or disabled drivers.
- 6.3 The harness must have breeching if the vehicle does not have brakes.
- 6.4 Bitless bridles (hackamores) are not permitted.
- 6.5 All rings, terrets and/or other types of device that have an extreme leverage effect on reins or bits are forbidden.

7. Competitions – Phase 1 – Precision and Paces

- 7.1 The arena will be 50 x 20 metres and the markers will be equally spaced apart, 8.33m apart on the long sides, 10m on the short sides. A diagram is at Annex B on page 17.
- 7.2 Only approved Indoor Horse Driving Trial (IHDT) Tests or tests approved by the Victorian Indoor/Outdoor Committee will be used. In Australia, test/s must be carefully chosen and able to accommodate the wide range of skill levels found between beginner and open drivers.
- 7.3 All judges' scores will be recorded by the judge at the end of each movement. Judges are not expected to record comments on the movements.
- 7.4 The scores in precision and paces for each movement will be made available to the drivers as soon as possible after their tests.
- 7.5 Two judges are used. One judge assesses and marks the paces, which counts for 50% of the score, while the other assesses and marks the precision of the movements executed, these scores contributing the other 50% toward the total.
- 7.6 Marks out of 10 will be awarded for each numbered movement on the following basis:

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 10. Excellent | 7. Fairly Good | 4. Insufficient | 1. Very Bad |
| 9. Very Good | 6. Satisfactory | 3. Fairly Bad | 0. Not Executed |
| 8. Good | 5. Sufficient | 2. Bad | |

Half marks are acceptable.

- 7.7 The score for a test is calculated as follows:
- Add up all the marks for the Precision judge.
 - Subtract the result from the score you would get for 10 points for each movement, normally 100.
 - Multiply this by 0.5
 - Do the same for the Paces judge.
- 7.8 Errors of course, or instances of rule breaking will be indicated, recorded and reported to the scorer by the judge responsible for marking precision.
- 7.9 Not Used
- 7.10 The test must be driven from memory.
- 7.11 The definitions of walk, trot and other paces are as, for the ACDS Rules for Combined Driving Events and the ACDS Rules and Guidelines for Driven Dressage.
- 7.12 Changes of pace must always be made smoothly and promptly with the horse remaining in balance and on the bit. A transition must be completed as the nose of the horse arrives at the prescribed marker.
- 7.13 A halt must be made so that the leading horse's nose is at the mark, unless specified otherwise in the test.
- 7.14 It is an 'Error of Course' when a driver deviates from the required track, or when a movement is omitted altogether.
- 7.15 If a driver makes an Error of Course, the precision Judge will ring the bell and stop the driver. The driver must then resume the test from the beginning of the movement where the error was made. If the driver is in any doubt, they may approach the Precision Judge for instructions.
- 7.16 Other penalties in Precision and Paces:
- Entering the arena without a whip, or losing or putting down a whip 5 penalties
 - Groom(s) dismounting (one or both):
 - 1st incident 5 penalties
 - 2nd incident 10 penalties
 - 3rd incident Elimination
 - Driver dismounting 20 penalties
 - Lamé horse Disqualification
 - Outside assistance Elimination
 - Vehicle overturning Elimination
 - Error of Course:
 - First occasion 5 penalties
 - Second occasion 10 penalties
 - Third Occasion Elimination
 - Part of the turnout leaving the arena during a movement: mark down for inaccuracy
 - The whole turnout leaving the arena: Elimination

Competition – Phase 2 – Cones

8.1 There will be up to ten obstacles.

| Class | | Cones Width |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Horse | Four-in-hand and Tandem | 1.80m to 1.90m |
| | Pair | 1.70m to 1.80m |
| | Single | 1.50m to 1.60m |
| Pony | Four-in-hand and Tandem | 1.70m to 1.80m |
| | Pair | 1.50m to 1.60m |
| | Single | 1.40m to 1.50m |

Table 1 – Width of Cones

8.2 Width of Cones – the clearances shown in Table 1 above shall apply.

Note: For this purpose, in designing a course, it is permissible to set the width of the cones using the largest width to be driven during the day's competition. i.e. if there are horse pairs, pony pairs and pony singles competing on the day, it is permissible to set the width for the entire day at the cones width for horse pairs.

8.3 The course may include one multiple obstacle at most.

8.4 Gate markers will be numbered sequentially with a number on a red background on each right cone, from 1 up to the number of gates.

8.5 Official FEI (ACDS) type cones need not be used, but all elements must have a dislodgeable element.

8.6 The starting line may not be less than 5 metres from the first obstacle.

8.7 The finishing line may not be less than 5 metres from the final obstacle.

8.8 There is no set minimum or maximum distance between obstacles but the design should enable drivers to maintain an even pace throughout the majority of the course.

8.9 Drivers may take whatever line they wish, but must take each obstacle in sequence. The entire turnout must pass between the cones. Penalty for entire turnout not passing through cones is elimination.

8.10 Driving any obstacle out of sequence, including an obstacle which has already been driven, results in elimination.

- 8.11 Drivers may cross their own line between obstacles without penalty.
- 8.12 Knocking down a previously driven obstacle, or obstacle yet to be driven will incur 5 penalties.
- 8.13 The target time will be calculated from a speed of 220 metres per minute.
- 8.14 Drivers will be told the *time allowed* for the course but are reminded that stopwatches and/or other timing aids are strictly forbidden. Outside assistance could lead to disqualification.
- 8.15 A driver will incur one penalty point for each commenced second above or below the target time and 5 penalties for dislodging one or both balls of a single obstacle.
- 8.16 Other penalties in Cones
- Entering the arena without a whip, or losing or putting down a whip 5 penalties
 - Groom(s) dismounting (one or both):
 - 1st incident 5 penalties
 - 2nd incident 10 penalties
 - 3rd incident Elimination
 - Driver dismounting 20 penalties
 - Vehicle overturning Elimination
 - Outside assistance Elimination
 - Lamé horse Disqualification

Competition – Phase 3 – Obstacles

- 9.1 Each driver will drive four marathon type obstacles.

| Class | | Cones Width |
|-------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Horse | Four-in-hand and Tandem | 3.50m to 4.00m |
| | Pair | 3.50m to 4.00m |
| | Single | 3.00m to 3.50m |
| Pony | Four-in-hand and Tandem | 3.00m to 3.50m |
| | Pair | 3.00m to 3.50m |
| | Single | 3.00m to 3.50m |

Table 2 – Width of Gates

- 9.2 Marathon type obstacles - width of the gates - shown in Table 2 above.

For this purpose, in designing a course, it is permissible to set the width of the MO's using the largest width to be driven during the day's competition, i.e., if there are horse pairs, pony pairs and pony singles competing on the day, it is permissible to set the width for the entire day at the MO's for horse pairs.

- 9.3 Two obstacles will be erected in the arena at any one time and will have a maximum of 5 flagged gates.

- 9.4 Obstacles 1 & 2 shall be driven by each combination from all classes.
- 9.5 Local organisers may use obstacles 1 & 2 twice with the whole class driving the first two obstacles and then re-driving them as obstacles 3 & 4, or obstacles 1 & 2 may be re-flagged, or totally replaced to form obstacles 3 & 4, which are then driven by each combination.
- 9.6 As an alternative to clauses 9.4 and 9.5, local organisers may split classes up into convenient groups (groups of 4, 5 or 6) with each combination within the group driving obstacles 1 & 2 and once the entire group has driven obstacles 1 & 2, then with each driver driving obstacles 3 & 4.
- 9.7 Obstacles may have one knockdown per element.
- 9.8 Start and finish gates will be positioned between the obstacles and will be common to both obstacles.
- 9.9 The driver must go through the start, then through the lettered gates in sequence and in the correct direction, then through the finish. Once a lettered gate has been driven in the correct sequence it is 'free' and may be driven again in either direction. If a driver drives a gate out of sequence, or in the wrong direction, they incur 20 points for an Error of Course. No gates then count until they drive the correct next gate. If the error is not corrected, the combination is eliminated.
- 9.10 A gate is driven when the entire turnout crosses the line of the gate. Penalty for entire turnout not passing through the gate is elimination.
- 9.11 One penalty point will be awarded for each commenced second spent in each obstacle (this may be to 1/100th of a second at the discretion of Event Manager if suitable timing equipment is used). Each obstacle is timed individually.
- 9.12 This timing is made from when the nose of the first horse crosses the start line until the nose of the first horse crosses the finish line.
- 9.13 Each knockdown incurs 5 penalty points.

Other penalties in the Obstacles phase:

- Entering the arena without a whip or losing or putting down a whip 5 penalties
- Groom(s) dismounting (one or both) per incident 10 penalties
- Driver dismounting 20 penalties
- Vehicle overturning 60 penalties
- Lamé horse Disqualification
- Outside assistance Elimination

10. First Season Drivers

- 10.1 A First Season Driver is defined as a member who has never competed in an indoor event.
- 10.2 Notwithstanding any reference under sections 7, 8 and 9 of these Rules, a First Season Driver cannot be eliminated from an event or final. The reference to elimination in sections 7, 8 and 9 of these rules shall be replaced by a penalty of 50 points for a First Season Driver.

11 Qualification for Finals

- 11.1 Drivers must have competed at, and successfully completed two qualifying events in the current Indoor/Outdoor season to be eligible for the series final. In the case of multiples, each pony/horse must have successfully competed at, and completed two qualifying indoor competitions in the current season to be eligible (not necessarily in the combination to be used at the final).
- 11.2 The organisers of the final Championship event, reserve the right to issue invitations to further drivers as they see fit.
- 11.3 A Club wishing to host the final must have held a qualifier for the final during the current season.

12 Scoring

- 12.1 The Indoor score system can be downloaded from the Vic Branch website, as an Excel spreadsheet.

Using that spreadsheet, enter the precision and paces scores and any penalties, the length of the cones course, the time taken to drive the cones and any penalty (1 ball down is 5) and then the time taken in each obstacle and any penalties. All penalties need to be entered individually, because they vary according to the error, i.e., 5 for a knock down and 20 for an error in an obstacle. Check rules for Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3 above, and Annexes C and D on pages 18 and 19.

13 Health & Safety

- 13.1 Health and Safety standards will be in force always. All persons on any ground or course, etc., will be held responsible to comply with these standards at all times and will not put themselves or any other person at risk in any way whatsoever. Any accident shall be immediately reported to the Event Manager. A report shall be completed and forwarded to the State and Federal Secretaries.