



Standard Specification for Reins Used in Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse Racing¹

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1. Scope

1.1 The specification describes minimum performance criteria and describes test methods for reins for use in thoroughbred and quarter horse racing activities.

1.2 Except where noted, the values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D6775 Test Method for Breaking Strength and Elongation of Textile Webbing, Tape and Braided Material](#)

[E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines](#)

[E6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing](#)

2.2 Other Standards:³

[SAE J211 Recommended Practice for Instrumentation for Impact Tests – Requirements for Channel Class 1000](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 The terminology relating to tensile testing in Terminology [E6](#) applies to this specification. In addition, the following definitions will apply:

3.2 Definitions:

3.2.1 *breaking force*—the maximum load at which a tensile failure occurs.

3.2.2 *connecting hardware*—any hardware that connects the rein system components in series or in parallel along which the rein forces will act.

3.2.2.1 Discussion—

Connecting hardware may include snap hooks, D-rings, loops, links, anchorage hardware, and buckles.

3.2.3 *grip*—the length of rein assembly normally covered with a non-slip material that is intended to be gripped by the rider.

3.2.4 *maximum breaking force*—a specified value that the breaking force shall not exceed in a prescribed test.

3.2.5 *minimum breaking force*—a specified value that the breaking force must meet or exceed in a prescribed test.

3.2.6 *primary rein system*—any natural or synthetic material or assembly designed for the purpose of controlling a horse while riding or driving.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [F08](#) on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [F08.55](#) on Body Padding.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from SAE International (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, <http://www.sae.org>.

3.2.7 *rein system section 1*—the portion of the rein system defined as the section between the mid-point of the grip and distal loop end of the rein system.

3.2.7.1 *Discussion*—

Rein system section 1 may or may not include some type of secondary rein system designed to permit the rein system to remain functional should the primary rein system fail between the grip and connecting hardware or loop end of the rein.

3.2.8 *rein system section 2*—the portion of the rein system defined as the section between the mid-point of the grip of the right rein leading away from loop end to the mid-point of the grip of the left rein.

3.2.8.1 *Discussion*—

Rein system section 2 may include a buckle assembly for connecting two single sections of rein. Rein system section 2 shall not include a secondary rein system but may include connecting hardware.

3.2.9 *secondary rein system*—any natural or synthetic material or assembly designed to activate and function after a failure of the primary rein system.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 All test procedures described in this specification are to be performed on new rein systems.

4.2 This specification is intended to measure the breaking force of the primary rein system and secondary rein system (if applicable) as well as the breaking force of rein section 2 when loaded in a tensile testing machine.

4.3 This specification is not meant to be all inclusive since special circumstances may occur that dictate the use of nonconforming procedures for evaluation of a rein system. These special circumstances and the requirements they establish cannot be totally anticipated and therefore must be considered on an individual basis.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Testing Machines*—Machines used for tension testing shall conform to the requirements of Practices E4. The loads used in used in determining the breaking force of the reins shall be within the loading range of the tensile machine as defined in Practices E4.

5.2 *Gripping Devices:*

5.2.1 *General*—Various types of gripping devices may be used to transmit the measured load applied by the testing machine to the test specimens. To ensure axial tensile stress within the gage length, the axis of the test specimen should coincide with the center line of the heads of the machine. Any departure from this requirement may introduce bending stresses that are not included in the usual stress computation. It is essential that any gripping mechanism, whether it be a winch, wedge grip, or slip drum clamp, not cause any damage or stress concentration in the test material that might influence the breaking strength. Failure away from the area of the gripping mechanism is generally sufficient to demonstrate this.

5.2.2 *Shackle and Eye Bolts*—A shackle and eye-bolt loop assembly may be used at one end of the testing machine to attach the loop end of the rein system to the testing machine. Where the loop end of the rein passes over the shackle or eye bolt, the minimum effective diameter of the bearing surface must exceed 5 mm. The maximum load capacity of the shackle and eye bolt must at least be greater than the 10 kN (2250 lb).

5.2.3 *Tie Down Winch*—A tie down winch assembly may be used at one of the testing machine to attach the strap or grip section of the rein system to the testing machine. The tie down winch assembly shall have sufficient diameter that several revolutions of strap section may be wrapped around the winch rod and held in place during tensile loading.

5.2.4 *Wedge Grips*—Testing machines usually are equipped with wedge grips. These wedge grips generally furnish a satisfactory means of gripping long specimens of ductile material. If, however, for any reason, one grip of a pair advances farther than the other as the grips tighten, an undesirable bending stress may be introduced. When liners are used behind the wedges, they must be of the same thickness and their faces must be flat and parallel. For best results, the wedges should be supported over the entire lengths of the heads of the testing machine. This requires that liners of several thicknesses be available to cover the range of specimen thickness. For proper gripping, it is desirable that the entire length of the serrated face of each wedge be in contact with the specimen. It is essential that the rein system is uniformly gripped when the load is applied.

5.2.5 *Split Drum Clamps*—Split drum type clamping systems that conform to Specification D6775 may be used to clamp the rein systems in the testing machine. Ensure that the clamps are positioned such that they are facing opposite of each other in order to ensure that the applied forces are acting through the rein system and no off-axis loading is occurring.

5.3 *Recording Equipment*—The recording equipment shall meet the following criteria: