

New Bitting Rules, USEF Effective Feb 1, 2012.

To summarize:

--snaffle bits that offer tongue relief will now be permitted in US shows, training level to fourth level. "Bits that offer tongue relief" means "ported" in our terminology but they will not be called ported bits in the rules. This is to distinguish them from mouthpieces like the segunda, which looks like a port but doesn't allow the tongue to pass under it (and therefore does not offer tongue relief).

--The rotating barrel is also legal (as long as it's not a roller and does not have any moving parts-for example the 03 is not legal because it has the copper roller).

--The bit can have a "deviation" (port) of up to 30mm from the surface of the tongue to the top of the mouthpiece. 30mm is a little over 1". This means that the following mouthpieces will now be considered legal in dressage: **04, 06, 36**. The 33 is just a smidge too high so will not be legal.

--no change to the cheekpiece rules, so only the eggbutt or dee **WITHOUT** hooks, the loose ring, the Baucher, and the full cheek **WITHOUT** hooks.

--This rule change only affects 4th level and below, so Grand Prix and higher will continue to use the double bridle.

--This rule change only affects US shows. International shows follow FEI rules, which have not changed to the best of our knowledge. So the only approved mouthpieces for FEI-sanctioned shows will continue to be: 02, 09, 10 in eggbutt and dees **WITHOUT** hooks, loose ring, Baucher and full cheek **WITHOUT** hooks.

(Thanks to [Myler Bits](#) for passing along this up to the minute news! Over the next few weeks they will be looking at adding some of the new legal cheekpieces so stay tuned.)