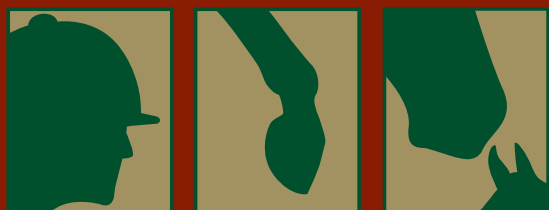# Horse Sport Ireland

Breeding Policy for the Irish Draught Horse Studbook 2010

HORSE SPORT IRELAND

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1.   Background - Consultation Process

The Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) Irish Draught Breeding Policy Taskforce was established in June 2009 under instruction from the HSI Breeding Sub Board. The aim of this Taskforce was to establish a new breeding policy for the Irish Draught Horse and to preserve and improve the breed.

The members of the Taskforce are as follows: Mr Michael Duignan (Chairman), Br. Alphonsus Gavigan, Mr Pat Gleeson, Dr Charlotte Moore and Mr Timothy O'Regan.

The Taskforce met six times and had lengthy discussions in relation to the breeding policy, breed objective, breed standard and inspection processes for both mares and stallions and initiatives to improve the quality of stock.

The Irish Draught Breeding Policy Taskforce followed the Terms of Reference listed below:

- To define a suitable breeding objective for the Irish Draught Horse Studbook.
- To propose a suitable classification system for Irish Draught Horses in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook in line with the Horse Sport Ireland Strategic Plan.
- To propose studbook initiatives to improve the quality of Irish Draught Horses being bred in Ireland.
- To propose initiatives to conserve genetic diversity.

Submissions from those within the industry were sought on two occasions. A total of 13 were returned initially and, following the publication of a draft version of this policy in November 2009, another 32 were submitted. Each submission was reviewed thoroughly by the Taskforce. The submissions expressed resounding support for a new Irish Draught classification system, a thorough review of current Performance Testing methods for stallions and the importance of introducing an open and transparent inspection system for both mares and stallions making use of the linear scoring system to provide further information to breeders.

2.   Principles of the Breeding Policy for Irish Draught Horse Studbook

The principles of the new breeding policy are:

- Build breeder confidence in the stallion inspection procedures by having an open, transparent and public stallion selection process.
- Assist breeders in making informed breeding decisions by maximizing the amount of information available to them on their animals, including pedigree, inspection results, performance and progeny information.
- Continue a mare inspection system and provide breeders with information on their mares.

- Provide information to breeders by classifying stallions and identifying stallions with additional achievements.

- Recommend initiatives to implement the principles outlined above and to improve the quality of stock.

- Publish genetic diversity measures for breeders (inbreeding and relationship coefficient).

3. Irish Draught Breed Objective and Description

a) Breeding Objective

To breed Irish Draught Horses with conformation, movement and temperament that conform to the breed standard, which will make good quality, sound and versatile horses.

b) Breed Summary Description

The Irish Draught Horse is a versatile, powerful and athletic animal with substance and quality. It has a pleasant head, good bone and a short shin, good spring of rib, strong loins and hindquarters and an active powerful stride. Known for its good temperament, docility and willing nature, it has a robust constitution and is inherently sound. The Irish Draught horse is a foundation breed that, when crossed with other breeds, will produce all types of leisure and performance horses.

c) Type of Horse: Detailed description

Height: Ideally Irish Draughts should stand between 158cms (15.2hh) and a maximum of 170cms (16.3hh) at maturity.

Bone: Approximately 23cms (9 inches) of strong, clean, flat bone.

Head: Should be pleasant, not coarse or hatchet like with plenty of room between the jaw bones. Wide forehead and kind eyes, set well apart, and with large quality ears.

Neck: Good length of rein with head well set on, neck should be correctly muscled and well shaped.

Front legs: Long muscular forearms, short cannon bones with plenty of strong clean, flat bone, not back at the knee or tied in below the knee. Pasterns should be in proportion with good hoof pastern axis. Hooves should be of equal size, hard and sound with plenty of room at the heel. They should not be boxy, over large or flat.

Shoulders: A sloping shoulder neither loaded, nor too heavy, nor too short, with well defined withers well set back.

Body, back and hindquarters: Deep girth with a good spring of rib, strong back, loins and quarters. The croup and buttocks should be long and gently sloping. Hips should not be too wide.

Hind legs: Strong gaskins, well shaped clean hocks set into short shins. Should not be cow-hocked or wide apart at the hocks.

Action: Should be straight and free not heavy or ponderous. Movement should be active and strong, showing good flexion of joints and freedom of the shoulders.

Colour: Any strong whole colour including bay, grey, chestnut, black, brown and dun. Excessive white markings are not desirable.

4.   Classification with Irish Draught Horse Studbook

a) Sections of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook

There are two sections within the Irish Draught Horse Studbook, the Main Section (comprising Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 and Class 4) and the Supplementary Section (Grade Up).

Divisions of the Main Section:

The Main Section is divided into four classes:

- Class 1
- Class 2
- Class 3
- Class 4

Class 4

All foals eligible to be registered in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook are classified in Class 4. This includes all foals whose sire and dam are classified in the Main Section of the Studbook. In addition, progeny of Supplementary (Grade Up Register) mares by Class 1 or Class 2 ID stallions are also classified in Class 4.

Horses that are not eligible for inspection, or that are not subsequently presented for inspection, will remain in Class 4. The progeny of animals classified in Class 4 are not eligible for inspection for upgrading.

Class 3

Horses that do not meet the official veterinary examination criteria are classified in Class 3. The progeny of animals classified in Class 3 are not eligible for inspection for upgrading.

Class 2

Horses that meet the official veterinary examination criteria but have not passed the official breed standard inspection (outlined in section 5) are classified in Class 2. The progeny of animals classified in Class 2 are eligible for inspection for upgrading to Class 1 status.

Class 1

Horses that meet the official veterinary examination criteria and pass the official breed standard inspection (outlined in section 5) are classified in Class 1.

SUPPLEMENTARY SECTION OF THE IRISH DRAUGHT HORSE STUDBOOK:
Supplementary (Grade Up Register)

The Supplementary (Grade Up Register) allows mares with a small portion of Thoroughbred, ISH (native blood only) or Connemara blood to enter the Supplementary Section of the Studbook with a view to strengthening some characteristics and adding genetic diversity.

The progeny of Grade Up mares (ISH) by Class 1 or Class 2 ID stallions are eligible to enter Class 4 in the Main Section of the studbook and be inspected for Class 1 status. Progeny out of Grade Up mares (ISH) and by Class 3 or Class 4 ID stallions will be registered in the Main Section of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook and will be classified accordingly.

b) Eligibility Criteria for Inspection for Classification

Main Section

Horses that meet the following pedigree requirements are eligible for inspection for Class 1 status:

Sire x Dam
Class 1 ID x Class 1 ID
Class 1 ID x Class 2 ID
Class 1 ID x Supplementary (Grade Up Register)
Class 2 ID x Class 1 ID
Class 2 ID x Class 2 ID } Subject to review in 2013
Class 2 ID x Supplementary (Grade Up Register)

Following inspection horses will be classified in Class 1, 2 or 3 as outlined in section 4.

Supplementary Section (Grade Up Register)

Mares that do not meet the criteria for entry into the Main Section of the ID Studbook, may be entered into the Supplementary Section (Grade Up Register), subject to them meeting the following requirements:

- Be identified according to the ISH Studbook rules
- Be judged to conform to the ID breed standard at inspection
- Meet the following pedigree requirements:
  - Be classified in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook
  - Have one parent (either the dam or the sire) classified in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook as Class 1 (RID) and one parent that is registered in the Main Section of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook
  - Have three grandparents classified in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook as Class 1 (RID) and one grandparent classified in the Main Section of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook as a Thoroughbred, Connemara Pony or Irish Sport Horse with recorded pedigree of Thoroughbred/Irish Draught/Connemara Pony descent.

Note:

Animals that are eligible for classification in the Main Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook are not eligible for classification in the Supplementary Section.

Mares that are classified in the Supplementary Section (Grade Up Register) will retain their original classification in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook and their passports will reflect that they are also classified in the Supplementary Section (Grade Up Register) of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook.

Example of pedigree of a mare eligible for Grade Up Register:

		ID Class 1
	ID Class 1	ID Class 1
Supplementary (ISH)		
	ISH	ID Class 1
		CP/TB/ISH (native bloodlines)
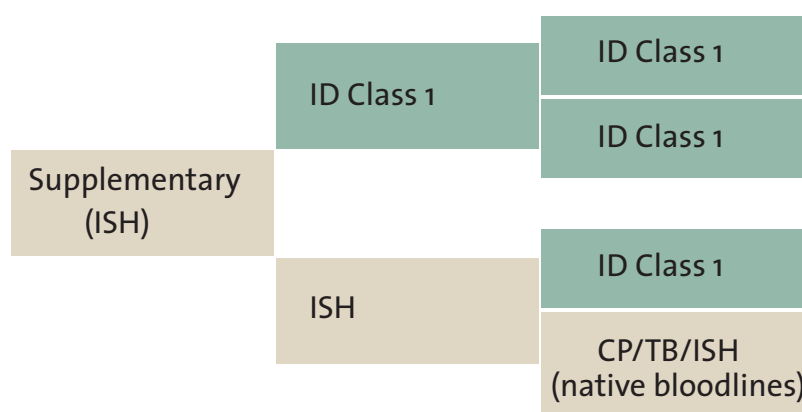
ISH = Irish Sport Horse
TB = Thoroughbred
CP = Connemara Pony

    c) Transitional Arrangements for Horses Classified in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook prior to April 2010

Main Section

Stallions:

Classification prior to April 2010	New Classification
RID	Class 1
ID S1	Class 2 (*see Note 1 below)
ID S2	Class 3

Mares/Geldings:

Classification prior to April 2010	New Classification
RID Elite Mare	Class 1 'Gold'
RID Premier Mare	Class 1 'Bronze'
RID	Class 1
ID	Class 4 (*see Note 2 below)

Foals:

All foals classified as 'ID' in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook prior to April 2010 will now be classified in Class 4.

Foals that will subsequently be eligible for inspection will be classified following their inspection in Class 1, 2 or 3, depending on the results of the inspection. Foals that are not subsequently eligible for inspection, or that are not subsequently presented for inspection, will remain in Class 4.

Note 1: Transitional Arrangements for Irish Draught Section 1

All stallions classified as Section 1 (S1) in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook prior to April 2010 will be given the opportunity to be inspected for upgrading to Class 1 status. Such stallions will undergo the stallion inspection process outlined in section 5 a), however, they will not be required to undergo the veterinary aspect of the inspection unless it is apparent that the stallion has an obvious veterinary condition (e.g. lameness, wind unsoundness etc.). ID S1 stallions that satisfy the inspection requirements will be upgraded to Class 1, otherwise they will be classified as Class 2. In the case where a stallion is asked to undergo a veterinary inspection after being presented with an obvious veterinary condition, the stallion may be classified in Class 3 if they fail to meet the veterinary requirements.

ID S1 stallions that do not come forward for inspection under the new system will automatically be classified in Class 2.

Note 2: Transitional Arrangements for 'ID' Mares and Geldings

All mares and geldings classified in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook as 'ID' prior to April 2010 will be classified in Class 4. This will include horses that had not been eligible for RID inspection, horses that were eligible for RID inspection but had not yet been presented for inspection, and horses that did not pass the RID inspection prior to April 2010. Such horses are eligible for inspection for Class 1 status providing they are out of a Class 1 (RID) mare and are by a Class 1 (RID) or Class 2 (ID S1) stallion.

Supplementary Section of the Irish Draught Horse Studbook:

Mares:

Classification prior to April 2010	New Classification
AID	Grade Up Register

5. HSI Irish Draught Inspection Process and additional merits

It is envisaged that the new inspection process will become a major event on every breeder's calendar. The inspections will be open to the public and the outcome of the inspection will be announced on the final day subject to each animal having completed all elements of the inspection process.

The stallion inspection process will take place in spring each year, in one location over a two day period. The venue will be selected based on the suitability of facilities which will include:

- Indoor arena with suitable surface
- Suitable area to carry out Veterinary examination
- Hard surface to assess conformation and gaits in hand in walk and trot
- Suitable stabling
- Large capacity spectator seating and facilities

5 a) Irish Draught Stallion Inspection Process

Stallions must be a minimum of three years of age to be presented for inspection. Normally, stallions will be inspected initially in the spring of their third year. However, should a breeder/owner wish to allow their stallion to mature further, older horses will also be accommodated in suitable age categories at the annual spring inspection.

The inspection will take place over two days and will include the following elements:

1) Pedigree
2) Conformation assessment using Linear Scoring
3) In hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface and in an indoor arena
4) Free Gait Assessment
5) Free Athleticism/Jumping Assessment
6) Veterinary (full clinical examination, including x-ray, scoping) or presented with a certificate from a veterinary surgeon on a panel authorized by HSI.

1) Pedigree

The stallion's pedigree will be checked at application stage for eligibility to be in the Studbook, classification of sire and dam and genetic diversity measures (inbreeding and relationship coefficient) will be examined.

2) Conformation Assessment using Linear Scoring

The linear score form is used to assess both the whole horse and its individual traits. This scoring process yields a detailed description of the traits of each horse as well as an overall score for the primary traits of conformation and movement. In summary, linear scoring provides information about body build and functionality, which in turn helps owners to make informed breeding decisions.

The linear score profile lists various traits of conformation, movement and athleticism separately. Descriptive terms, representing the extremes of each trait (for example, long and short, uphill and downhill) appear by each trait evaluated. The descriptive terms are separated by nine check-boxes representing the degrees between the two biological extremes. Specifically, the middle three boxes represent a trait as it appears in the average horse. The three boxes left of the middle (for example, uphill) and the three right of the middle (for example, downhill) represent a trait that is clearly evident in the horse. Inspectors will check one of the nine boxes to indicate the degree to which the specific trait is evident in the horse. Additional comment boxes may be checked if a horse demonstrates a fault or abnormality, or if a comment is required for evaluating a specific trait. Examples of faults and abnormalities include different feet, narrow chest and offset knees.

3) In hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface and in an indoor arena

On a hard surface the stallion will be required to stand for a visual inspection. When requested, the handler will walk the horse away from the inspection panel, around the marker and return to the panel. Then the handler will repeat the process in trot. However, in trot the stallion should continue to trot past the inspection panel.
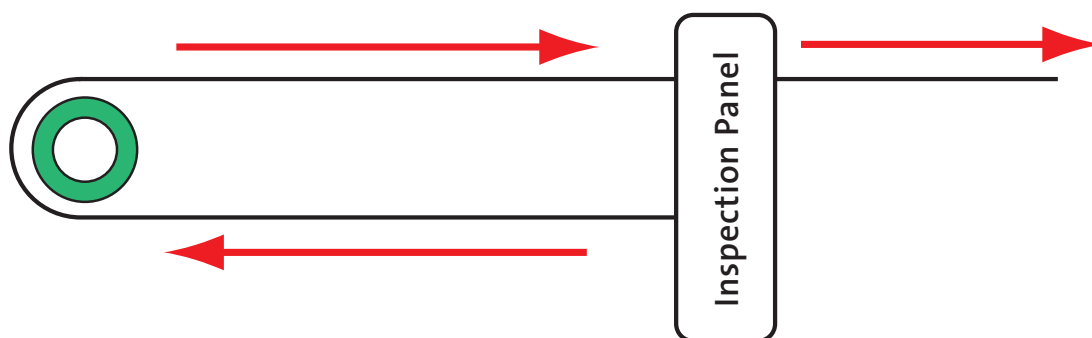
In the indoor arena the stallion will be required to stand for a visual inspection. When requested the handler will move the stallion in walk around the triangle and then in trot in the triangle as shown.
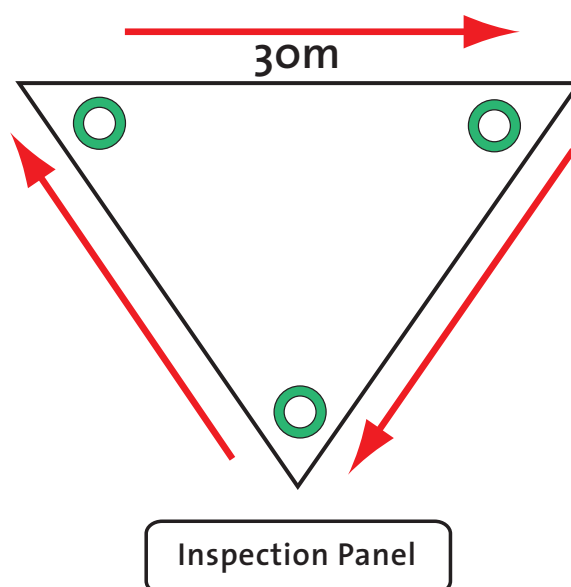
4) Free Gait Assessment

The handler will enter the loose pen and walk the stallion in a figure of eight around the two diamond-shaped markers and then safely release the stallion. The handler will stand quietly in one of the diamond-shaped areas and take no further part in handling the horse. The arena handlers will move the stallion in trot and canter.
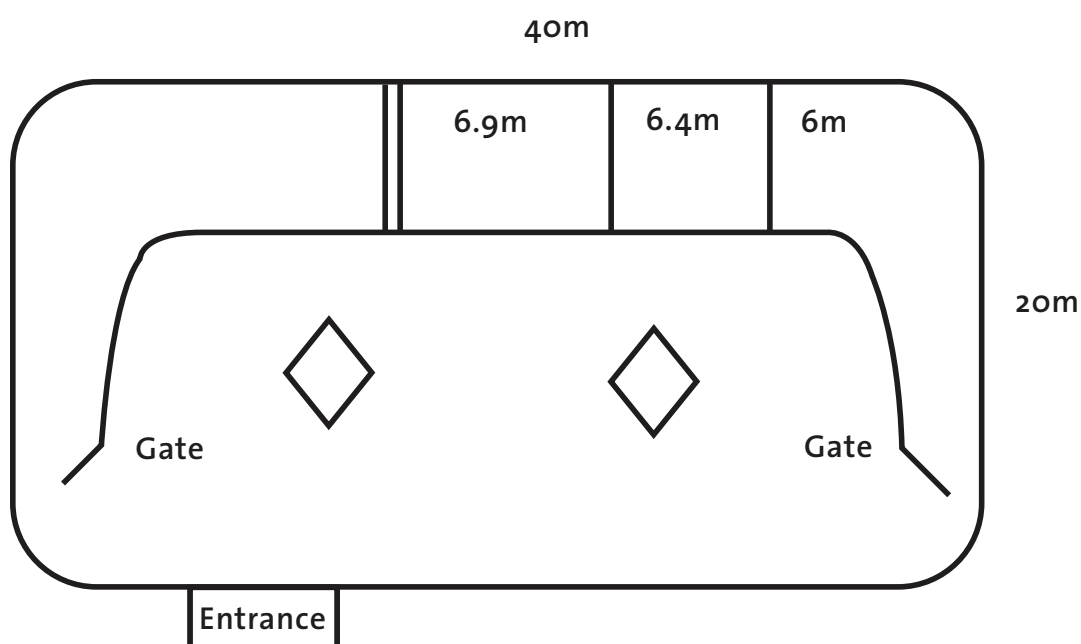
5) Free Athleticism / Jumping Assessment

Each stallion will be required to enter the jumping lane approximately six times and jump fences no higher than 1m for a 3 year old and no higher than 1.20m for a 4 year old or older. The distances between the obstacles are shown in the diagram on page 12. The inspection panel may use its discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles.

No hind boots may be worn by stallions during the jumping phase.

6) Veterinary

Prior to the inspection process all stallions will undergo an x-ray examination and preliminary veterinary examination by a Veterinary Surgeon from the approved HSI panel.

At the inspection stallions will undergo a full five stage veterinary examination by a Veterinary Surgeon appointed by Horse Sport Ireland.

Stage 1: Preliminary examination: Presently this includes Height, Bone and Girth measurement of all stallions. The Preliminary Examination involves overall visual and palpable observations of the animal presented. The heart and lungs are auscultated at rest.

Stage 2: Gait assessment and Trotting up: Presently this includes co-ordination testing such as tight circling and reversing, trotting on loosened rein both before and after flexion of the individual limbs.

Stage 3: Strenuous exercise: Lungeing on lead at a working canter to assess wind and heart function. Heart and lungs will be auscultated.

Stage 4: A period of rest: Recovery and management of stress associated with stage 3. Can facilitate eye examination as pupillary dilation has occured during exercise.

Stage 5: The second trot and foot examination: Assessing maintenance of soundness as a follow-on from the previous stages.

Blood samples will be taken on the day of inspection for testing for Equine Viral Arteritis (E.V.A.), Equine Infectious Anaemia (E.I.A.) and for the presence of drugs which could affect temperament and performance.

Extra Bronze Merit through Inspection Process

Owners can submit stallions on an optional basis to complete the athleticism assessment under saddle. Stallions can achieve a bronze merit through the inspection process by jumping a course of fences at 1.00m level under saddle as a four year old or older and achieving an above average score of over 70%.

Stallion Category	Stallion's own performance	Progeny Performance Minimum Criteria
GOLD	**Jumping:** A stallion that achieves four double clear rounds at 1.30m level. **Dressage:** A stallion that achieves four scores of above 64% at advanced medium level. **Eventing:** A stallion that has completed four events at CNC** with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC OR on completion of two CNC** events and one CIC** with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A stallion that achieves 1st three times in the stallion class in the RDS. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.	**Jumping:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each achieves four double clear rounds at 1.30m level. **Dressage:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each achieves four scores of above 64% at advanced medium level. **Eventing:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each has completed four events at CNC** with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC OR on completion of two CNC** events and one CIC** with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A stallion that produces five distinctive progeny that each achieves 1st in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships. **Riding:** A stallion that produces five distinctive progeny that each achieves 1st at the RDS in any riding class or any other I.S.A. National Championships. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.
SILVER	**Jumping:** A stallion that achieves four double clear rounds at 1.20m level. **Dressage:** A stallion that achieves three scores of above 64% at elementary level. **Eventing:** A stallion that has completed three events at CNC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC OR on completion of one CNC* and one CCI*/CIC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A stallion that achieves 1st twice in the stallion class in the RDS. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.	**Jumping:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each achieves two double clear rounds at 1.20m level. **Dressage:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each achieves three scores of above 64% at elementary level. **Eventing:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each has completed two events at CNC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC OR on completion of one CNC* and one CCI*/CIC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each achieves 1st in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships. **Riding:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each achieves 1st or 2nd at the RDS in any riding class or any I.S.A. National Championships. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.
BRONZE	**Jumping:** A stallion that achieves two double clear rounds at 1.00m level OR jumps 1.00m level under saddle as a four year old or older at the stallion inspections and achieves an above average score (above 70%). **Dressage:** A stallion that achieves two scores of above 64% at preliminary level. **Eventing:** A stallion that has completed two events at Pre Novice level with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A stallion that achieves 1st in the stallion showing class in the RDS. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.	**Jumping:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each achieves two double clear rounds at 1.00m level. **Dressage:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each achieves two scores of above 64% at preliminary level. **Eventing:** A stallion that produces three distinctive progeny that each has completed two events at Pre Novice level with a clear round SJ and clear jumping XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A stallion that produces two distinctive progeny that each achieves 1st in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any other I.S.A. National Championships. **Riding:** A stallion that produces two distinctive progeny that each achieves 1st at the RDS, RUAS in any riding class or any other I.S.A. National Championships. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.

Only Class 1 ID stallion owners can apply for these merits. The merits will be applied on receipt of application with proof of achievements.

Note: All the above merits will be awarded under the HSI Affiliated body rules for each discipline or under the specific show rules as outlined. Stallions achieve merits within the various disciplines (eg. Show Jumping) and must meet the criteria outlined within that specific discipline. Stallions can achieve merits in more than one discipline. Equivalent verifiable performance results that meet the criteria in Show Jumping, Dressage or Eventing that are achieved outside Ireland, will be considered on application and merits will be applied accordingly.

5 b) Irish Draught Mare Inspection Process

Irish Draught mares over two years of age will be eligible to apply for inspection where they will be assessed on their pedigree, conformation and gaits. A veterinary examination will also be completed. A Linear Scoring profile will be completed to provide owners with a detailed description of their mare's conformational strengths and weaknesses which will be invaluable when making future breeding decisions.

The inspection will take place on one day and will include the following elements:

1) Pedigree

2) Conformation Assessment and Linear Scoring

3) In hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface and in an indoor arena

4) Free Gait Assessment

5) Veterinary

1) Pedigree

The mare's pedigree will be checked at application stage for eligibility to be in the Studbook, classification of sire and dam and genetic diversity measures (inbreeding and relationship coefficient) will be examined.

2) Conformation Assessment and Linear Scoring

The linear score form is used to assess both the whole horse and its individual traits. This scoring process yields a detailed description of the traits of each horse as well as an overall score for the primary traits of conformation and movement. In summary, linear scoring provides information about body build and functionality, which in turn helps owners to make informed breeding decisions.

The linear score profile lists various traits of conformation, movement and athleticism separately. Descriptive terms, representing the extremes of each trait (for example, long and short, uphill and downhill) appear by each trait evaluated. The descriptive terms are separated by nine check-boxes representing the degrees between the two biological extremes. Specifically, the middle three boxes represent a trait as it appears in the average horse. The three boxes left of the middle (for example, uphill) and the three right of the middle (for example, downhill) represent a trait that is clearly evident in the horse. Inspectors will check one of the nine boxes to indicate the degree to which the specific trait is evident in the horse. Additional comment boxes may be checked if a horse demonstrates a fault or abnormality, or if a comment is required for evaluating a specific trait. Examples of faults and abnormalities include different feet, narrow chest and offset knees.

3) In hand Gait Assessment on a hard surface and in an indoor arena

On a hard surface the mare will be required to stand for a visual inspection. When requested, the handler will walk away from the inspection panel, around the marker and return to the panel. Then the handler will repeat the process in trot. However, in trot the mare should continue to trot past the inspection panel.
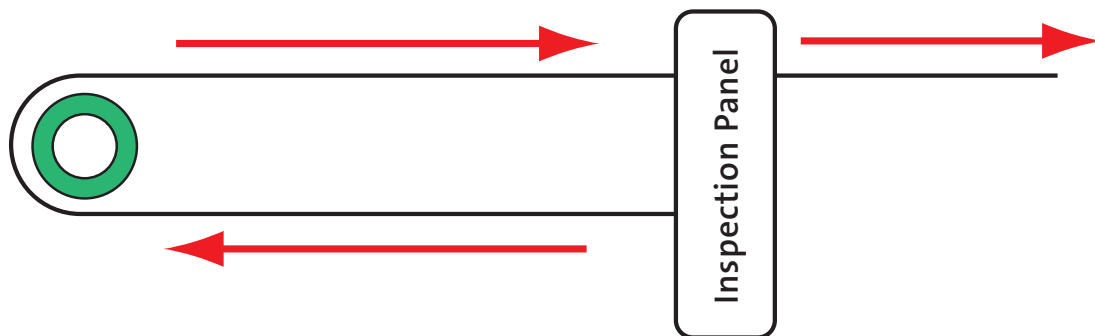
In the indoor arena the mare will be required to stand for a visual inspection. When requested the handler will move the mare in walk and then in trot in a triangle as shown.
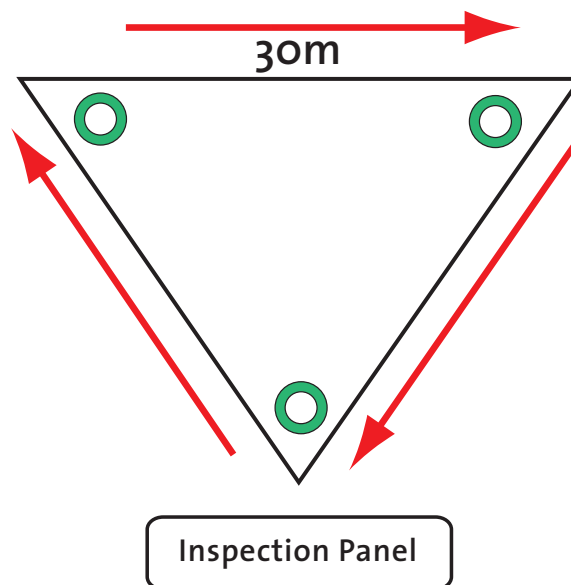
4) Free Gait Assessment

The handler will enter the pen and walk the mare in a figure of eight around the two diamond-shaped markers and then safely release the mare. The handler will stand quietly in one of the diamond-shaped areas and take no further part in handling the mare. The arena handlers will move the mare in trot and canter.

5) Veterinary

Mares will undergo a basic veterinary examination at the inspection by a Veterinary Surgeon appointed by HSI (e.g. identification, heart, eyes, limbs, co-ordination, mouth, etc. are examined).

All mares will be measured at the inspection and these measurements shall be regarded as official measurements for the purpose of mare classification in the ID Studbook.

Extra Bronze Merit through Inspection Process

a) Conformation and Movement
Mares that meet the requirements to be classified in Class 1 and achieve an average score of 80% for movement and conformation will be awarded an additional 'Bronze' merit.

b) Jumping
Owners whose mares meet the requirements to be classified in Class 1 can opt to have their mares' athleticism assessed through loose jumping. Mares that achieve a score of 70% or over in the athleticism assessment will achieve an additional 'Bronze' merit.

Each mare will be required to enter the jumping lane approximately six times and jump fences no higher than 1m. The distances of the obstacles are shown in the diagram on page 12 and the dimensions of the obstacles will be adjusted so that the last obstacle will increase to a final maximum height of 1m, both vertical and oxer. The inspection panel may use its discretion as to the number of attempts they wish to assess each horse over the obstacles.

No hind boots may be worn by mares during the jumping phase.

Mare Category	Mare's own performance	Progeny Performance Minimum Criteria
GOLD	**Jumping:** A mare that achieves two double clear rounds at 1.20m level. **Dressage:** A mare that achieves three scores of above 64% at elementary level. **Eventing:** A mare that has completed two events at CNC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC OR on completion of one CNC* and one CCI*/CIC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A mare that wins three times at the broodmare championships at the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.	**Jumping:** A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that each achieves two double clear rounds at 1.20m level. **Dressage:** A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that each achieves three scores of above 64% at elementary level. **Eventing:** A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that each has completed two events at CNC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC OR on completion of one CNC* and one CCI*/CIC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that each achieves 1st in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.
SILVER	**Jumping:** A mare that achieves two double clear rounds at 1.10m level. **Dressage:** A mare that achieves two scores of above 64% at elementary level. **Eventing:** A mare that has completed two events at CNC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A mare that wins the broodmare championships at the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.	**Jumping:** A mare that produces two progeny that each achieves two double clear rounds at 1.10m level. **Dressage:** A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that each achieves three scores of above 64% at elementary level. **Eventing:** A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that each has completed two events at CNC* with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that each achieves 1st/2nd in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships. **Riding:** A mare that produces two distinctive progeny that each achieves 1st/2nd at RDS, RUAS in any riding class or any other I.S.A. National Championships. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.
BRONZE	**Conformation & Movement:** Mares that, on inspection, pass the clinical veterinary and achieve an above average score on conformation and movement (i.e. above 80%) will receive a bronze merit. Also, mares that are already classified within the IHR as "Premier broodmares". **Jumping:** A mare that achieves one clear double round at 1.00m level OR a mare that loose jumps under the HSI inspection process to 1.00m level and achieves a score of above 70%. **Dressage:** A mare that achieves two scores of above 64% at preliminary level. **Eventing:** A mare that has completed two events with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC at Pre Novice level. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A mare that achieves 1st/2nd in any showing class in the RDS or 1st/2nd at RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.	**Jumping:** A mare that produces one progeny that achieves two double clear rounds at 1.00m level. **Dressage:** A mare that produces one progeny that achieves two scores of above 64% at preliminary level. **Eventing:** A mare that produces one progeny that has completed two events with a clear round SJ and clear jumping at XC at Pre Novice level. **Driving:** Level equivalent. **In hand Showing:** A mare that produces one progeny that achieves 1st/2nd in any showing class in the RDS, RUAS or any I.S.A. National Championships. **Riding:** A mare that produces one progeny that achieves 1st/2nd at RDS, RUAS in any riding class or any other I.S.A. National Championships. **Endurance:** Criteria to be finalised with ILDRA.

Only Class 1 ID mare owners can apply for these merits. The merits will be applied on receipt of application with proof of achievements.

Note: All the above merits will be awarded under the HSI Affiliated body rules for each discipline or under the specific show rules as outlined.

Mares achieve merits within the various disciplines (eg. Show Jumping) and must meet the criteria outlined within that specific discipline. Mares can achieve merits in more than one discipline. Equivalent verifiable performance results that meet the criteria in Show Jumping, Dressage or Eventing that are achieved outside Ireland, will be considered on application and merits will be applied accordingly.

6. Classification of an Irish Draught Horse in the ISH Studbook

Irish Draught Horses

Irish Draught Horse stallions and mares registered in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook will be accommodated in the Main Section of the Irish Sport Horse Studbook as follows:

Classification in ID Studbook	Classification in ISH Studbook	
	Stallions	**Mares**
RID	Recommended for Breeding (RB)	Studbook
Class 1	Not Recommended for Breeding 1 (NRB1)	Studbook
Class 2/ S1	Not Recommended for Breeding 1 (NRB1)	Foal/Uninspected
Class 3/ S2	Not Recommended for Breeding 2 (NRB2)	Foal/Uninspected
Class 4	Not Recommended for Breeding 2 (NRB2)	Foal/Uninspected

Irish Draught stallions classified in Class 1 or Class 2 of the Irish Draught Studbook are eligible for classification in the Irish Sport Horse Studbook as Recommended for Breeding providing they meet the following criteria which are equivalent to the Irish Draught Studbook merits of Gold or Silver based on achievements in show jumping, eventing or dressage:

- Show Jumping: A stallion that achieves four double clear rounds under Show Jumping Ireland rules at 1.20m or above OR produces three distinctive progeny that each achieves two double clear rounds at 1.20m or above.

- Eventing: A stallion that has completed three events at CNC* with a clear round show jumping and acquires no jumping faults in the cross country phase OR on completion of one CNC* and one CCI*/CIC* with a clear round show jumping and acquires no jumping faults in the cross country phase OR produces three distinctive progeny that each has completed two events at CNC* with a clear round show jumping and acquires no jumping faults in the cross country phase OR has completed one CNC* and one CCI*/CIC* with a clear round show jumping and acquires no jumping faults in the cross country phase.

- Dressage: A stallion that achieves three scores of above 64% at elementary level OR produces three distinctive progeny that achieves three scores of above 64% at elementary level.

7. Policy Review

Horse Sport Ireland will review the breeding policy for the Irish Draught Horse in 2013.

8. Studbook Initiatives

1. Training and Education

Inspector Training

A comprehensive training programme should be initiated by HSI for Irish Draught inspectors who will be carrying out the new mare and stallion inspections for the Irish Draught Horse Studbook. This should include a thorough understanding of the Linear Scoring system as it applies to the Irish Draught breed.

Training should also be provided for the arena party who will be responsible for the loose gaits and the loose jumping element of the inspection process.

Breeder Education

A brochure outlining the new breeding policy and requirements for the inspections under the new breeding policy should be developed and made available for mare owners and stallion owners. This should be followed up by an information evening, which would outline the new breeding policy and the inspection procedures.

Workshops / demonstrations should be provided for stallion and mare owners to familiarise them with the new inspection procedures.

Ongoing familiarisation programmes through breeders' groups should be provided to breeders on the use of new information e.g. Linear Scoring profiles and Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) to enable breeders to make informed breeding decisions. Increased breeder education on the best use of breeding values and Linear Scoring profiles is considered crucial to the success of the breeding programme.

The Taskforce recommended that a Breeders' Week be held annually, at which time inspections, seminars and demonstrations would also take place.

2. Studbook Harmonisation

Following the report from the ID Breeding Policy Taskforce, it recommends that HSI consults with all of the Irish Draught Horse Studbooks worldwide (Great Britain, North America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) with the aim of harmonising the classification and inspection system for all Irish Draught Horses.

Studbooks that standardise their system to be in line with the 'mother' Studbook would have their stallions and mares automatically classified in the Irish Studbook (e.g. Class 1

stallions inspected and classified by the Irish Draught Horse Society of Great Britain would automatically receive Class 1 status in the Irish Draught Horse Studbook). In cases where it is not possible to standardise inspection/classification systems, animals originally registered with a studbook outside of Ireland shall be entered into the class of the Studbook whose criteria they meet.

3. GENETIC DIVERSITY

It is proposed to develop an online international database for the Irish Draught Horse Breed in co-operation with all of the ID Daughter Studbooks. The database would allow breeders to access pedigree information on all Irish Draught Horses worldwide and calculate the genetic consequences of hypothetical matings (e.g. inbreeding and relationship coefficients).

The objective of this database is to conserve the genetic diversity of the Irish Draught Horse by:

- Assisting breeders in making informed breeding decisions by providing them with pedigree information, genetic diversity measures from hypothetical matings and guidelines on breeding methods to conserve genetic diversity.

- Widening the gene pool within the population of Irish Draught Horses in Ireland by providing breeders with easy access to information on Irish Draught stallions standing overseas.

- Generating genetic diversity measures (inbreeding and relationship coefficients etc.) for use by inspectors as part of the pedigree assessment of stallions and mares coming forward for inspection and classification within the Studbook.

- Identifying foals with distinctive genetic compositions as potential stallions and broodmares.

- Generating annual lists of 'Rare Bloodline' stallions classified in Class 1 and Class 2 of the Studbook.

- Developing a routine system to monitor the level of genetic diversity within the Irish Draught population.

This database will become a vital resource for breeders and Irish Draught Horse Studbooks throughout the world and will play an important role in the long-term conservation of this endangered breed.

4. Irish Draught Horse Breeders Guide

It is proposed to publish an 'Irish Draught Horse Breeders Guide' every two years. Breeders who have produced a purebred Irish Draught foal within the past 3 years will be given the opportunity to have their mare's details published in the publication. The 'Irish Draught Horse Breeders Guide' will be available both online and in printed format and will put potential buyers in direct contact with Irish Draught breeders.

5. Research

Evaluate the outcomes and value from breeding initiatives currently in place e.g. Irish Draught Colt Retention scheme.

Research should be carried out to identify what the key markets are for the Irish Draught breed and to ensure that the breeding objective is appropriate to meet the requirements of these markets.

Revised Sample ID Linear Score Sheet for Studbook Classification

Location:	Date:	Judge:
Horse name:	Horse number:	Entry no:
	Sire:	
Date of birth:	Gender:	
	Studbook classification:	Paid: Yes / No
Owner 1:	Owner 2:	Passport: Yes / No
Name:	Name:	
Address:	Address:	
Place:	Place:	
Height:	Bone:	Girth:
Colour:	Markings:	
Comments:	Comments:	

Pedigree:	Conformation:	Movement:	Athleticism:
	Conformation:	Walk:	Canter:
Temperament:	Type:	Trot:	Reflexes:
			Technique:
			Scope:

Conformation/Trait (columns: Obvious [a][b][c] · Average [d][e][f] · Obvious [g][h][i])

Conformation/Trait	left	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	right	Comments
1. Body shape	rectangular	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	square	
2. Head: appearance, forehead, ears, eyes, jawbones & gullet	fine	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	plain	[o] roman nose / [o] long
3. Head neck connection	light	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	heavy	
4. Length of neck	long	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	short	[o] Deep out of chest
5. Muscling of neck	heavy	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	poor	[o] ewe-neck
6. Position of neck	vertical	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	horizontal	
7. Height of withers	high	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	flat	
8. Position of shoulder	sloping	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	straight	[o] narrow chest
9. Barrel	deep	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	shallow	
10. Line of back	strong	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	weak	
11. Line of loins	strong	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	weak	
12. Shape of croup	sloping	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	flat	
13. Length of croup	long	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	short	
14. Forearm	strong	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	weak	[o] tied in elbow
15. Cannon bone length	short	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	long	
16. Substance of legs	heavy	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	light	
17. Stance of forelegs	over at knee	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	back at knee	[o] tied in knee
18. Stance of pastern	sloping	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	upright	[o] standing under
19. Heels	high	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	low	
20. stance of hind legs	sickle	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	straight	[o] camped out / [o] abnormal hock / [o] abnormal stifle

Conformation/Trait (columns: Obvious [a][b][c] · Average [d][e][f] · Obvious [g][h][i])

Conformation/Trait	left	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	right	Comments
21. Knees (front view)	big	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	small	[o] abnormal
22. Stance of forelegs	toed in	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	toed out	[o] offset knees
23. Shape of feet	wide	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	narrow	[o] different
24. Quality of legs	lean	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	blurred	
25. Hindquarters and gaskins	strong	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	weak	
26. Stance of hind legs	cow-hocked	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	bow-hocked	[o] base narrow
27. Type	breed standard	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	not breed standard	[o] excessive white markings

Movement/Trait (columns: Obvious [a][b][c] · Average [d][e][f] · Obvious [g][h][i])

Movement/Trait	left	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	right	comments
28. Walk: length of stride	long	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	short	[o] irregular
29. Walk: correctness	toed in	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	toed out	[o] uncoordinated
30. Trot: length of stride	long	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	short	
31. Trot: correctness	dishing	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	plaiting	
32. Trot: elasticity	elastic	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	stiff	[o] irregular
33. Trot: impulsion	powerful	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	weak	[o] uncoordinated
34. Trot: balance	carrying	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	pushing	
35. Canter: length of stride	long	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	short	
36. Canter: impulsion	powerful	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	weak	
37. Canter: balance	carrying	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	pushing	

Athleticism/Trait (columns: Obvious [a][b][c] · Average [d][e][f] · Obvious [g][h][i])

Athleticism/Trait	left	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	right	comments
38. Reflexes:	quick	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	slow	[o] forwards
39. Technique: forelegs	bent	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	stretched	[o] under the body
40. Technique: back	rounded	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	hollow	
41. Technique: haunches	open	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	tight	
42. Scope	much	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	little	
43. Elasticity	supple	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	stiff	
44. Care	careful	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	not careful	
45. Attitude	much	[a]	[b]	[c]	[d]	[e]	[f]	[g]	[h]	[i]	little	

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