



September 2016

Questions and Answers: APHIS Form 7060, Official Warning Letter Horse Protection Act

Q. What is an APHIS Form 7060, Official Warning Letter (7060) as it pertains to the Horse Protection Act?

A. A 7060 is administrative correspondence advising an individual or business that APHIS believes that an alleged violation of the Horse Protection Act (HPA) has occurred. It is intended to notify an individual or business of the noncompliance with the HPA and thereby provide an opportunity to ensure future compliance. The 7060 also advises that APHIS may seek civil or criminal penalties for the alleged violations in the future.

Q. What is the legal effect of a 7060?

A. A 7060 is administrative correspondence used to promote compliance with the law. A 7060 is not notice of a legal finding that a violation occurred. A 7060 is sent when APHIS is not seeking an enforcement action, such as civil penalties, sanctions, disqualification, or criminal prosecution.

Q. What are the consequences if I have received a 7060 in the past and APHIS later has reason to believe that I have not complied with the HPA?

A. APHIS may pursue criminal or civil penalties or other sanctions for the alleged violations described in your 7060 and for the subsequent alleged violations.

The HPA provides for civil penalties of up to \$2,200 per violation. The HPA also provides for the disqualification from showing or exhibiting any horse and for judging or managing any horse show, exhibition, sale or auction for a period of not less than one year for the first violation and not less than five years for any subsequent violation.

Q. What recourses are available to me if I receive a 7060?

A. The determination to issue a 7060 is based on the facts and circumstances surrounding the alleged violation. Issuing you an official warning does not constitute a finding of a violation by the agency, and therefore there is no requirement for a notice or hearing. However, you may contact our office if you have a question regarding the 7060 you received.

Additional Information

For more information contact:
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