Dear Carriage Driving Representatives and Assessors,

Please ensure that this information is distributed to the carriage driving groups in your region, as well as the Regional Chair, as soon as you can.

**Groups** - please send a reply to cdlead.rda@outlook.com to acknowledge that you have received this Position Statement, which has been approved by the Carriage Driving Advisory Group, the RDA Head of Coaching and the RDA CEO**.**

**June 2024 Position Statement – Securing participants during Carriage Driving**

To protect the safety of participants, no participant should be tied or strapped into the carriage in any way during the drive. A participant can be secured by rope, webbing, or belt providing one end is held or sat on by a coach, volunteer or backstepper, or ‘quick release harness’ can also be used. However, this needs to be released by a rip cord attached to the coach or backstepper by narrow velcro and does not rely on the coach or participant or backstepper releasing it manually.

**This is critical RDA guidance, and RDA’s position statement, above, must be observed. It is Howdens recommendation that this safe practice is observed and undertaken.**

**Rationale:** -

* In the event of a runaway/tip up, all persons on the carriage **must** be free to fall out/away from the carriage.
* Carriage driving has inherent risks and potentially more so for RDA drivers. Therefore, before any participant starts driving, a risk assessment **must** be carried out and documented as to what equipment, including aids for stability e.g. lap belt or quick release harness complying with the above position statement. The risk assessment is essential and should be kept under review.
* In some circumstances the participants condition may be such that carriage driving is not an option for them. RDA Groups should not be pressured into practice which will bring them into disrepute with these rules and put themselves, their CD Coaches, their Group, and volunteers at risk.

Zilco Drivers Safety Belts, at a discount of 5%, are available from <https://www.harnessstuff.co.uk/products/drivers-safety-belt-seat-belt>.

Also available at other stockists.