

Alberta Health Services

May 6, 2021

RE: Racing Entertainment Centre Cease & Desist Order

To whom it may concern,

(May 4, 2021) Castrol Raceway received notification from AHS to **CEASE ALL OPERATIONS** immediately as per CMOH Record of Decision - Order 12-2021 (alberta.ca), stating closure to Public as a "Racing Entertainment Centre". **I would like to immediately gain further clarity on the scope and understanding of operations permitted.** It is not our intention to disregard the safety and well being of our community. We believe wholeheartedly we were in compliance with ongoing public safety standards and protocols.

We opened this past weekend (April 28-May 2, 2021) for *outdoor motor vehicle licensing, training and recreation*; it was our understanding this was permissible, so long as **participation was non-competitive (i.e. no racing), nor did the occasion provide 'entertainment' for Spectators or Fans.** We did not intentionally disregard current public health orders, as per Alberta BizConnect for Outdoor Sport and Recreation "*Individual sports and activities such as running, cycling, dirt biking and golfing (disk and regular) are allowed*"; **motor sport and motor recreation by its inherent nature is an 'individual' sport.** Again, this we interpreted as compliance, especially considering dirt biking (motorized recreation) is specifically listed as an acceptable individual sport.

This past weekend, only limited attendance for individual/solo participation, Staff, and Crew essential to the safety and operations of the performance vehicle were permitted to attend; **the venue was not open to the public for any actionable purposes.**

It was also previously encouraged by AHS (email received from AHOperations@gov.ab.ca March 15, 2021) for us to consider **virtual performance events as suitable alternative**; this we believe implied the "on-track" portion of our overall operations was permitted so long as all Public Health measures were in effect (i.e. Masking, Distancing, sanitizing, no spectators, etc). We took the necessary steps and financial commitment to implement a new live streaming platform, in which we initiated testing this past weekend.

CASTROL RACEWAY

Alberta Coalition of Motor Sport and Motorized Recreation Owners/Operators

Castrol Raceway along with other Alberta motorsport venues are much more than a 'Racing Entertainment Centres' - we regularly provide *motorized vehicle training, coaching and instruction*, we provide *closed course access for safe street and highway traffic safety initiatives* aligned with Vision Zero (Safety Through Education), we provide *safety certification and licensing examinations for motorized recreation and purpose built performance vehicles* in compliance with multiple sanctioning and motor sport governing bodies (i.e. NHRA, WCMA, FIA, FIM). We provide *space and capacity for Drive-In and Drive through pandemic conscious events* such as Magic of Lights and Graduations; we provide a *restricted access facility for private training such as law enforcement, fire & rescue, as well as automotive innovation exploration* (i.e. autonomous vehicles). Our respective facilities may find their core 'culture' to be prominently motorsport and motor recreation; however the vast real estate and open space allows our facilities to host a diverse array of outdoor actions and experiences.

On March 22, 2021, I along with other motor recreation facility operators and industry leaders were fortunate to be granted a 90 minute zoom conference with 3 leading representatives from Alberta Health Services as well as John Barbour, *Manager, Operations and Sector Coordination Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women*. **We discussed in length the inaccuracy associated with the "Racing Entertainment Center" (aligned with Horse Racing, Bingo Halls & Casinos) classification for Motorized Recreation.**

"Racing" in and of itself is a very small part of who we are or what we do. This being said, we do in fact regularly host independant 'amateur' competitions; **there is NO PROFESSIONAL motorsport competition in Alberta.** Our participants compete for the pure joy of sportsmanship, excitement, and ultimate bragging rights among their peers. The AHS Representatives expressed their understanding and agreed Motorized Recreation and our respective Alberta facilities would be considered deserving of unique sector guidance. They were very forthcoming with the fact that as **Motor Recreation had no pre-pandemic Government association or sanctioning, there was no historical precedent for an industry sector.** It was expressed in this call, that in June 2020 there was a compelling need for AHS to 'classify' motorsport recreational facilities unsystematically in the industry deemed appropriate without a comprehensive knowledge of our overall operations. We also discussed Fan based attendance guidance in line with

outdoor recreation. **Considering an optimistic outlook of vaccinations, we respectfully requested an advance pre-established capacity guidance adaptation based on variable Grandstand/Viewing Area capacity versus an invariable capacity restriction.**

The meeting with AHS concluded on a very positive note, I expressed our willingness and appreciation to proceed with participant based outdoor recreation without providing Fan based entertainment until further guidance for motorized recreation could be provided. There was no contradiction to my statement, which I understood as acceptance to meet ongoing public health measure compliance. I was told they would get back to us in the very near future with further guidance details.

It is imperative for further guidance to be provided. According to the call from our local Health Inspector, our respective facilities must be closed to ALL public events. Does this include Drive Through and Drive-In events? Does this include private driver training events? Does this include private licensing? **We need to establish a comprehensive and factual understanding of motorized recreation in contrast with the current ‘perceived’ operations of our respective facilities.**

At this point I will speak solely on behalf of the Castrol Raceway facility; our facility has 4 Graduations, 6 Drive-In movies, a fundraising Drive-In concert along with 3 weeks of Law Enforcement driver training scheduled in the very near future; do these events need to be immediately cancelled? Specifically in respect to the High School Graduation Drive-In ceremonies, it is unfair to delay this decision until the end of May as alternate provision for these schools and students must be made in a timely manner. My understanding is other motorsport recreational venues also have alternate “**Living Life in the Drivers Seat**” type events scheduled as well.

Yours once again in anticipation,

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CASTROL RACEWAY

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