
Overview

This standard describes the competence required to humanely handle and control equines so that work can be undertaken and risks to the animal, the handler, yourself and others are minimised. You will be able to assess the risks involved, identify appropriate methods of handling and control for the equine and its requirements, and use these methods effectively and safely. You will be able to take account of the following factors which may affect equine behaviour:

1. age
2. breed
3. temperament
4. surroundings
5. experiences
6. external influences

You will need to communicate with others to agree the requirements for handling and control to ensure that:

7. the safety of personnel, including yourself, is maintained
8. the welfare of the animal is maintained
9. the appropriate equipment is selected and used correctly

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 select a method of humane handling and control that is appropriate for the equine and its requirements in order to minimise the risks to the animal, the handler, yourself and others
- P2 discuss and agree the handling requirements with others in order for the task to be carried out
- P3 approach the equine in a manner which promotes animal welfare, minimises distress to the animal and maintains health and safety
- P4 adapt the handling and control of the equine in response to its reactions and behaviour
- P5 adopt a working position that is safe for the equine and yourself
- P6 ensure that the animal's health and welfare is maintained throughout
- P7 ensure that your interaction with the equine does not adversely affect its behaviour.

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 why equines may require handling and control and how this might affect the method selected
- K2 the range of different methods of handling and control
- K3 how to plan the handling and control of equines
- K4 how to assess the risks inherent in handling and controlling equines
- K5 factors that may cause distress or alarm in equines
- K6 how to recognise and assess the signs of distress and alarm in equines
- K7 how to identify situations or conditions where it is not suitable for a person to approach, handle or control an equine without assistance and the possible consequences of doing so

You need to know and understand:

Work with equines

- K8 how to identify a suitable working environment
- K9 how to identify suitable working positions that will minimise the risk of personal injury or ill health
- K10 how to approach, lift, hold and work with the feet of equines
- K11 safe working limits within the foot and limb
- K12 precautions to be taken to prevent injury to the equine
- K13 recognise when the equine would benefit from interim training

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