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### Overview

This standard is about assessing the equine's environment and how it can have both positive and negative influences on the health of the equine foot. Environmental factors include diet, shoeing, exercise regime, stabling/turnout regime, exposure to moisture and pollutants.

You will understand that carrying out a thorough assessment of environmental factors is an important activity.

All activity should be carried out in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act and other relevant legislation

Responsible person: owner or nominated person

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## Assess environmental influences on the equine foot

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 assess the equine's environment and the impact this has on the equine's feet
- P2 discuss and agree with the responsible person, a plan for how to manage the equine's environment in order to maintain and improve foot health
- P3 advise on any aspects of the equine's environment that should be altered, recognising when problems should be referred to a veterinary surgeon or other appropriate person
- P4 discuss with the responsible person, the impact of other relevant aspects of health such as saddle fit, dental health, use of hoof boots or therapeutic pads on foot health

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Working with equines**

- K1 the effects of accommodation on equine foot health. this will include availability of shelter, turnout arrangements, the surfaces the feet are exposed to – both when turned out and confined, and freedom of movement.
- K2 the effects of climatic conditions (e.g. exposure to moisture, sunlight, variations in temperature) on equine foot health, and how these effects can be managed to improve equine foot health.
- K3 the environmental and other factors that influence hoof growth rate and hoof wear, (e.g. the impact of different accommodation or terrain)
- K4 the effects of exercise and working regimes and the various equine disciplines on equine foot health.
- K5 the impact of diet and nutrition on equine foot health.
- K6 the impact of infection on the equine foot including how to minimise the risk of occurrence, and the role of appropriate hygiene
- K7 how to recognise infection in the equine foot and the importance of discussing the diagnosis and therapy with a veterinary surgeon
- K8 the role of topical hoof care products (e.g. disinfectants, hoof dressings) in equine foot health including their advantages, disadvantages and their correct usage.
- K9 the restrictions and implications in relation to giving advice on hoof care products, ensuring that any advice is not seen as diagnosis or treatment
- K10 how diseases and the general state of health of the equine impact on the health of the feet, and how to discuss this with a veterinary surgeon
- K11 the potential for medical treatments to impact on equine foot health (e.g. worming, adverse reactions to therapeutic drugs such as steroids)
- K12 how to score body condition and the impact of body condition on overall health and the equine foot
- K13 the impact of other aspects of use on equine foot health such as shoeing, saddle fit and dental health.

*You need to know and understand:*

#### **Legal aspects**

- K14 implications of the Veterinary Surgeons Act
- K15 implications of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 as amended
- K16 implications of animal welfare and other relevant legislation

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<b>Developed by</b>	LANTRA
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<b>Originating organisation</b>	LANTRA
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<b>Original URN</b>	NEHC3
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<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Animal care and veterinary science; Animal Care Services
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<b>Suite</b>	Equine Barefoot Care
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<b>Key words</b>	horse, hoof, shoe, health, animal
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