Drive pairs of horses for commercial purposes



Overview

This standard is about being able to drive pairs of horses for commercial purposes. It includes being able to select horses for commercial work according to their physical ability and fitness, temperament, experience and appearance. You will be able to match pairs of horses together for physical ability, temperament and training. You will be able to select and fit harnesses for a range of commercial purpose work, and select from a range of suitable horse drawn vehicles. You will understand how to set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance.

The standard includes being able to direct the activities of the Harness Horse Grooms crew whilst preparing horses to be driven, putting-to/taking out and whilst driving.

The standard includes being able to drive pairs of horses for specialist commercial purposes, and ensure they are trained and familiarised with working in a range of commercial situations.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 Identify the commercial purposes for which the pair of horses will be used
- P2 Assess the temperament of individual horses, and evaluate their suitability for a range of commercial uses
- P3 Match pairs of horses for physical ability, temperament, training and appearance
- P4 Select horse drawn vehicles for a range of purposes which are suitable for the intended commercial purpose
- P5 Select and fit harnesses to the horses
- P6 Carry out routine pre-drive checks on horses, harnesses and vehicles
- P7 Direct the activities of the crew of Harness Horse Grooms to assist with maintaining the safety and welfare of the horses and passengers
- P8 Drive horses in accordance with legislative requirements and codes of practice for commercial harness horse driving, and with consideration for other road users
- P9 Monitor the horses' behaviour whilst driving, and take positive action to minimise stress and maintain well-being
- P10 Work in a way which maintains the safety of self and others and the welfare of the horses.

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 Your role and responsibilities in driving pairs of horses for commercial purposes
- K2 How to assess the fitness and ability of individual horses for commercial work
- K3 How to assess the temperament and behaviour of individual horses
- K4 How to select horses to work together as a pair
- K5 How to determine on which side of the pole each horse should work
- K6 How to fit, set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance
- K7 How to select suitable commercial horse drawn vehicles
- K8 How to monitor individual horses whilst driving
- K9 How to minimise stress and how to positively promote the well-being of horses whilst driving
- K10 How to direct the crew of Harness Horse Grooms to assist effectively with maintaining control, and the safety and welfare of the horses and passengers whilst driving
- K11 How to manage the safety of spectators and participants in commercial activities whilst driving
- K12 Legislative requirements and codes of practice relating to driving pairs of horses on the public highway for commercial purposes
- K13 How to work in a way which maintains the safety of self and others and the welfare of the horses.

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