
Overview

This standard is about being able to train and produce young and inexperienced horses to work in harness. It involves understanding horse behaviour and being able to assess horses for suitability for a variety of harness horse work, including recreational driving, competition driving, commercial work, and agricultural and land-based work.

It involves being able to develop and implement training plans for individual horses, and to monitor the effectiveness of the training plan. It includes being able to work with and supervise others.

The horses being trained will range from young, inexperienced horses, to mature, and experienced riding horses which are being trained to be driven in harness, and training single horses to work as part of a multiple, and multiple horses to work as singles. It may include specialist training of heavy horses to work with horse drawn agricultural and land-based implements and equipment.

The standard also includes training experienced harness horses for a range of commercial work, including weddings, funerals and passenger carrying, plus training for specialist commercial work. The standard includes training driving horses for general purpose use and sale, and also for the specific requirements of clients.

Requirements:

- General purpose driving and re-sale
- Showing and competition driving
- Commercial work
- Agricultural and land-based work
- Company with other horses
- Proximity to crowds and spectators
- Specialist commercial uses.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 Identify own responsibilities relating to training horses to work in harness
- P2 Assess horses for suitability to be trained for the required purpose
- P3 Develop and implement training programmes for individual horses, to meet a range of requirements
- P4 Introduce horses to voice aids, noises behind them, traffic, etc.
- P5 Introduce horses to harness, weight-pulling and vehicles/implements
- P6 Train horses to be driven for specific purposes and/or in specific situations
- P7 Train horses according to client's requirements
- P8 Use humane and effective training methods
- P9 Brief and use assistants appropriately
- P10 Work in a way which maintains the safety of self and others and the welfare of horses.

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 Your role and responsibilities in training horses to work in harness
- K2 The principles of training horses to work in harness
- K3 Horse psychology and behaviour and how this affects training
- K4 How to assess horses for suitability for training for a range of harness work
- K5 How to identify client's requirements, and how to relate these to the training of the horse
- K6 A range of humane, safe and effective training methods
- K7 How to develop and implement training plans for individual horses
- K8 How to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the training plan
- K9 How to monitor and minimise stress in the horse during training
- K10 How to train horses for specialist commercial requirements
- K11 How to train horses to work with agricultural and land-based horse drawn implements and equipment
- K12 How to work with and supervise assistants involved in horse training
- K13 How to care for the horse in training
- K14 How to relate nutrition, non-driving training exercise, rest and recreation to the training programme
- K15 How to work in a way which maintains the safety of self and others and the welfare of the horses.

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