
Overview

This standard is about being able to drive teams of four horses for general purposes. It includes being able to select horses for general purpose work according to their physical ability and fitness, temperament, experience and appearance. You will be able to make informed decisions relating to the positioning of individual horses in the team, and the introduction of new horses to the team. You will be able to select and fit harnesses for a range of specialist 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.

Select horses according to:

- Fitness and ability
- Height and stride length
- Experience, training and temperament
- Appearance
- Suitability for working together.

Situations:

- General
- Commercial
- Exercise
- Schooling.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 Identify the purposes for which the team of four horses will be used
- P2 Select individual horses which are suitable for the intended team work
- P3 Select horses which complement one another when driving as a team of four
- P4 Assess the temperament of individual horses, and evaluate their suitability for a range of general purpose uses
- P5 Determine the positioning of individual horses within a team of four according to their individual merits
- P6 Select horse drawn vehicles for a range of purposes which are suitable for the purpose
- P7 Select and fit harnesses to individual horses
- P8 Carry out routine pre-drive checks on horses, harnesses and vehicles
- P9 Ensure the care of the horses after use
- P10 Ensure the harness and vehicle are cleaned and maintained after use
- P11 Direct the activities of the crew of Harness Horse Grooms to assist with maintaining the safety and welfare of the team of four horses whilst being driven
- P12 Drive horses in accordance with legislative requirements and codes of practice, and with consideration for other road users
- P13 Monitor the horses' behaviour whilst driving, and take positive action to minimise stress and maintain their well-being
- P14 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 teams of four horses for general purposes
- K2 The criteria for selecting suitable individual horses for the team
- K3 The criteria for selecting horses to work together as part of a team of four
- K4 How to assess the fitness and ability of individual horses for team work
- K5 How to assess the temperament and behaviour of individual horses
- K6 The criteria for determining the positioning of each horse within a team of four
- K7 How to fit, set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance
- K8 How to select suitable horse drawn vehicles
- K9 How to monitor individual horses whilst driving as a team of four
- K10 How to evaluate the effectiveness of a team of four as a whole whilst driving
- K11 How to minimise stress and how to positively promote the well-being of horses whilst driving
- K12 How to direct the crew of Harness Horse Grooms to assist effectively with maintaining control, and the safety and welfare of the horses whilst driving
- K13 Legislative requirements and codes of practice relating to driving horses on the public highway
- K14 How to work in a way which maintains the safety of self and others and the welfare of the horses.

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Developed by	Lantra
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Version number	1
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Date approved	January 2011
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Indicative review date	October 2015
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Validity	Current
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Status	Original
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Originating organisation	Lantra
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Original URN	
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Relevant occupations	All equine occupations
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Suite	Equine 2011
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Key words	Equine; horses; teams; driving
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