

Assess grazing land for the introduction of horses

Overview

This standard is about assessing grazing land for the introduction of horses.

This includes recognising and removing hazards, providing a suitable supply of water and checking boundaries and the quality of the grazing.

The work described in this standard would be carried out following agreement with a supervisor of the responsibilities.

You will need to be fully aware of the importance of health, safety and animal welfare in connection with this activity.

You will need to be able to recognise hazards in the workplace.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the quantity and quality of grazing land to ensure it is appropriate for the introduction of horses
2. confirm that the boundaries of the grazing land are safe and secure and where appropriate report any problems, this could include verbal or written
3. confirm that gates to the grazing land are safe and secure and report any problems, this could include verbal or written
4. ensure that an adequate supply of clean water is available to horses
5. communicate with others and maintain affective team work
6. recognise and minimise hazards or report them to the appropriate person
7. maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the condition and quality of grass and the number of horses that can be kept on it
2. the different methods of providing water for horses
3. the importance of clean grazing in preventing parasitic infections
4. the common types of plants and weeds that are poisonous to horses and how to recognise them
5. the suitability of the horses' water supply
6. the suitability of different types of fencing or boundaries for horses
7. the ideal location of a gate and appropriate measures for securing gates
8. risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
9. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Glossary

Boundaries include:

- walls
- fences
- ditches
- hedges

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