

Turn out and maintain horses within a grazing area

Overview

This standard involves turning out and maintaining horses within a grazing area and the routine checking of the horses and land. It also includes catching a horse on grazing land.

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

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. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity, according to instructions
2. routinely check that the land, boundaries, gates and any shelters are suitable and secure and report any problems with the appropriate person, this could include verbal or written
3. check that an adequate supply of clean water is available
4. approach the horse in accordance with instructions and in a manner that minimises stress to the horse and risk to yourself and others
5. select and fit equipment if necessary before leading the horses to the grazing area
6. turn out the horses to the grazing area as instructed
7. maintain horses by checking their behaviour and condition, as appropriate
8. take the appropriate action to resolve any problems
9. catch horses from the grazing area and bring in horses as instructed
10. seek clarification when instructions are not clear
11. communicate with others and maintain affective team work
12. 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 selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. the potential hazards which might occur in moving, turning out and catching horses
3. how to approach horses in an appropriate manner to minimise stress and risk to yourself and others
4. methods of turning out horses into regular and new grazing areas
5. how often to check the horse, field and water depending on the time of year and weather
6. the types of records required and the importance of accurate record-keeping
7. how to introduce a new horse into an established group
8. the group behaviour of horses
9. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
10. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Maintain horses on grazing land in:

- summer conditions
- winter conditions
- all year round conditions

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Glossary

Boundaries may include:

- walls
- fences
- ditches
- hedges

Group behaviour of horses:

- natural instincts
- actions
- reactions

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