

Apply, fit and maintain horse tack and equipment for ridden exercise

Overview

This standard is about applying, fitting and maintaining horse tack and equipment for ridden exercise with a range of horses.

It involves fitting tack to horses ready for exercise. You will need to fit, remove and maintain appropriate horse tack and equipment.

The work described in this standard would be carried out following agreement work 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. approach the horse in accordance with instructions and in a manner that minimises stress to the horse and risk to yourself and others
3. seek clarification when instructions are not clear
4. apply and fit suitable horse tack and equipment to horses for ridden exercise
5. remove tack and equipment from horses after exercise
6. report any problems to the appropriate person
7. clean, maintain and store horse tack and equipment
8. maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. the principles of applying, fitting and maintaining horse tack and equipment for ridden exercise
3. the reasons for checking the horse for comfort and safety
4. the range of horse tack and equipment in common use
5. the identification of parts of the horse's saddle and snaffle bridle
6. how to clean, maintain and store horse tack and equipment
7. how to approach horses in an appropriate manner to minimise stress and risk to yourself and others
8. the problems that may occur during the fitting of tack and equipment to horses and the action to take
9. how to recognise ill-fitting tack on a horse and the action to take
10. how to identify correct-fitting tack on a horse
11. the risks to horses, yourself and others, and how these can be minimised
12. your responsibilities under relevant animal welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Fit and maintain the following tack:

- snaffle bridle
- martingales
- saddles
- nosebands and bits
- breastplate
- boots

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