
Overview

This standard involves riding horses in the open, including walking, trotting and cantering. You should be able to exercise singly and in a group. This will include a range of horses.

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.

Ride horses in the open

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear the appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity, according to instructions
2. complete the relevant preparations before the ride is commenced
3. approach the horse in accordance with instructions and in a manner that minimises stress to the horse, and risk to yourself and others
4. ride the horse in the open in a controlled manner appropriate to the working area and conditions
5. report any difficulties to the appropriate person, as necessary
6. adjust tack to meet your own requirements including girth and stirrups
7. mount and dismount the horse safely with and without assistance
8. adopt the correct riding position to exercise control over the horse
9. ride the horse in the open singly and in groups
10. follow relevant Countryside/Access Codes for riding in the open
11. maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the work.

Ride horses in the open

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. how to approach horses in an appropriate manner to minimise stress and risk to yourself and others
3. the different effects on a horse's behaviour when riding horses in the open singly and in a group
4. the necessary preparations prior to riding, including exercise instructions, communication and equipment
5. the reasons for adopting the correct riding position
6. why it is important to check tack and adjust girths and stirrups
7. the basic principles of controlling a horse
8. the hazards likely to be encountered when riding in an open space and the actions to be taken in response to these
9. the importance of following exercise routines and the aids that can be used
10. the procedures to be followed in the event of an accident or incident
11. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
12. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
13. the relevant Countryside/Access Codes, including permission to access land to ride horses in the open

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Scope/range

You must ride a minimum of two horses.

Mounting:

- assisted
- unassisted

Adjust tack for your use:

- girth
- stirrups
- bridle

Following movements:

- walk
- trot
- canter
- negotiating gates

Skills

Glossary

Hazards:

- other horses
- livestock
- crops
- people
- other animals
- cyclists
- vehicles
- weather conditions
- adverse surfaces

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