

## Overview

This standard involves riding and leading horses in the open. This could include walking and trotting. You should be able to exercise horses 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.

## Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity, according to instructions
2. complete the relevant preparation before the ride is commenced
3. approach horses in accordance with instructions and in a manner that minimizes stress to the horses, and risks to yourself and others
4. select and fit suitable tack and equipment including girth, bridle and boots
5. maintain control over ridden and led horses in a safe manner according to the conditions
6. ride and lead horses in walk and trot according to the conditions including being able to halt, turn left and right
7. mount the horse safely with or without assistance
8. dismount the horse safely
9. report any problems to the appropriate person where necessary
10. return horses to accommodation on completion of the exercise
11. 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. how to approach horses in an appropriate manner to minimise stress and risk to yourself and others
3. how to assess the suitability of horses for riding and leading
4. the hazards likely to be encountered when riding and leading horses in the open and the actions to be taken in response
5. the necessary preparations prior to riding, including exercise instructions, communication and equipment
6. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
7. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

Ride and lead horses in the open

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**Scope/range**

Following movements:

- walk
- trot
- halt
- turn to left and right
- mount
- dismount

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**Scope/range related  
to knowledge and  
understanding**

How to respond to situations:

- other horses, people and vehicles
- different weather conditions
- adverse surfaces

## Glossary

### hazards:

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

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