
Overview

This standard involves riding schooled horses. This will include following specific instructions for basic schooling in walking, trotting and cantering. You should be able to exercise horses with and without stirrups, singly and in a group.

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. check and adjust tack so that it is suitable for riding the schooled horse
3. mount and dismount the schooled horse safely with and without assistance
4. adopt a balanced riding position which is not detrimental to the schooled horse
5. warm up the horse in preparation for the movements
6. ride the schooled horse in a controlled manner suitable for the working area and conditions, including the ability to maintain rhythm, suppleness and contact
7. carry out movements safely, in accordance with instructions
8. warm down the horse appropriately after movements
9. 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 effects on horse behaviour of riding in groups or singly
3. the reasons for adopting a balanced riding position
4. why it is important to check tack and adjust girth and stirrups
5. the hazards likely to be encountered when riding and the actions to be taken in response to these
6. the principles of riding a schooled horse and the aids for simple exercises
7. the importance of warming up and warming down the horse appropriately
8. the 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

Scope/range

Ride a minimum of two horses

Mounting:

- assisted
- unassisted

Riding:

- with stirrups
- without stirrups
- singly
- in groups
- reins held in one hand

Perform movements:

- walking
- trotting on the correct diagonal
- cantering on the correct lead
- simple school movements
- halt

Glossary

Hazards:

- to adverse surfaces
- other horses
- other people
- adverse weather conditions

Tack:

- saddle
- girth
- snaffle bridle
- stirrups

Rhythm:

- regularity of the steps in walk
- trot
- canter

Suppleness:

- horse is free from tension and resistance to aids

Contact:

- soft, steady connection between hand and mouth, achieved from riding forward from leg to hand, (a true contact is established from the activity of the horse's hind legs)

Ride schooled horses

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