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## Overview

This standard is about working with harnessed horses in agricultural and land-based activities such as crop cultivation, planting and harvesting.

The standard involves being able to prepare horses and implements for work, and care for and maintain them after work. It involves being able to assist with controlling and caring for the horse while working as well as before and after use. It involves being able to assist with moving agricultural implements into position for work.

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 horses are fit for work, report any areas of concern and take action as instructed to maintain the horse's welfare
3. prepare fit horses for work; groom to a standard appropriate for the intended agricultural or land-based activities
4. identify the harness appropriate for the intended task, and harness up the horses
5. identify the agricultural implement appropriate for the intended task, and check it is in working order and fit for use
6. assist with positioning the agricultural implement ready for use
7. assist with hitching the horses to the agricultural implement
8. assist the operator with the harnessed horses and agricultural implement while working in a range of agricultural and land-based activities
9. monitor the horses while they are working for signs of fatigue or stress, report and take actions as instructed
10. care for the horses during rest breaks as instructed
11. check over and care for the horses after use
12. check over, care for and store the harness and agricultural implement after use
13. maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of horses, during the activity

## Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. your role and responsibilities in assisting with working with harnessed horses and agricultural implements in agricultural and land-based activities
3. how to recognise signs of ill-health, injury, lameness, and harness sores prior to use
4. how to check feet and that shoes, if worn, are fit for purpose
5. the welfare implications of working horses that are showing signs of ill-health, injury, lameness, harness sores or injury or damage to feet or shoes
6. the correct selection and use of harness for the required activities
7. the correct selection and use of agricultural implements for the required activities
8. how to check and prepare agricultural implements ready for use
9. how to recognise signs of fatigue, lameness or stress in the horse while working, and what actions to take for the welfare of the horse
10. the methods of caring for the horse during rest-breaks
11. how to check over and care for the horse after use
12. how to check over, care for and store harness and agricultural implements after use
13. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
14. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

## Work with harnessed horses in agricultural and land-based activities

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