

## Tack up horses for specialist work

**Overview**

This standard involves tacking up horses for specialist work. You should be able to select, apply and fit the tack for the specified activity, and check that the tack is safe before handing over to the user. You will need to work to a deadline Tack could be for competitions with different disciplines.

You will need to be fully aware of the importance of animal health and welfare and health and safety in connection with this activity.

You will need to be able to recognise hazards and assess risks 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
2. confirm requirements for tacking up horses with the appropriate person
3. handle and restrain the horse in a manner that does not compromise animal welfare, avoids behaviour giving rise to welfare concern and maintains health and safety
4. select, apply and fit the tack for the specialist work, according to requirements
5. check that the tack is safe and fit for use before handing over to the user
6. identify any defective tack and take the appropriate action within the limits of your authority
7. monitor and maintain the health and safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

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### Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. the types of possible specialist work activity and the requirements for tacking up horses
3. the types of saddlery, snaffle bridles, bits, bandages, boots and other equipment used for specialist work activity
4. the importance of using appropriate handling and restraint techniques and minimising stress to the horse and risks to yourself and others
5. how the fit of the tack affects the horse's movement
6. the dangers of unsafe tack and how to check that the tack is safe
7. the limits of your responsibility for dealing with defective tack
8. the policy and procedures for tacking up
9. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
10. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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### Scope/range

Select, apply and fit the following tack:

- GP saddle
- snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband
- specialist equipment, e.g. jumping or dressage saddles, a variety of bits, nosebands, breastplates and martingales
- exercise boots and bandages
- other equipment where appropriate

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