

## Overview

This standard covers preparing to lead a horse trek.

You should be able to check that sufficient horses and tack are available, assess clients' suitability for the activity, allocate clients to horses and respond to any problems.

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 and assess risks in the workplace.

Prepare to lead a horse trek

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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. prepare to lead a horse trek by confirming sufficient horses are available with suitable tack
3. assess client suitability for the horse trek
4. carry out a full briefing of procedures and confirm that clients have understood these, including safety precautions and equipment, basic horse control, rules regarding their position in the string, the trek route and emergency procedures
5. check clients are wearing safety equipment, prior to leading a horse trek, and explain that it is to be worn at all times.
6. allocate clients a suitable horse, give assistance during mounting and adjust tack to suit the rider
7. confirm that the appropriate emergency equipment is available
8. respond appropriately to any problems that arise, within your limits of authority
9. monitor and maintain the health and 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 reasons for briefing clients and checking their understanding
3. the procedures of your organisation regarding trekking activities
4. why it is important to ensure that safety helmets are correctly fitted and worn at all times
5. the reasons for communicating the proposed trek route to someone in authority
6. how to establish and maintain relationships with clients
7. how to assess the suitability of clients for the horse trek
8. the reasons for allocating clients to particular horses
9. how to respond to problems and your limits of authority
10. the insurance requirements for trekking activities
11. the emergency equipment required for the trek, including first aid kit, spare tack and communication equipment
12. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
13. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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**Scope/range**

Work with the following clients:

- adults
- children
- experienced riders
- inexperienced riders

Assess the following aspects of clients suitability:

- dress
- age
- weight
- experience
- other specific needs e.g. medical conditions

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