

Handle and load racehorses into starting stalls prior to a race

Overview

This standard is about handling and loading racehorses into starting stalls prior to a race. It requires liaison with officials and jockeys, It also involves handling horses prior to and during their stalls entry, ensuring safe procedures are followed at all times.

The standard requires close team work during the lead up to a race start and as well as timely and accurate working arrangements.

This standard also covers the general maintenance, use and movement of starting stalls on a racecourse.

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.

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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. clearly establish your role and responsibilities with the starting stall team
3. check starting stalls for safety and operation prior to a race
4. select the allocated racehorse and liaise with officials and the jockey for the correct order for loading
5. 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.
6. confirm arrangements with jockey and officials, including assisting if final tack/shoeing checks need to be made
7. handle and load racehorses into starting stalls safely and within agreed timescales
8. respond to requests from other team members when loading difficult and inexperienced racehorses
9. close starting gates ensuring the safety and security of yourself, the horses and others
10. carry out all loading procedures in accordance with relevant health and safety requirements and legislation
11. complete after race checks and records

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment
2. your responsibilities in relation to race start procedures
3. the use and general maintenance of starting stalls
4. the importance of using appropriate handling and restraint techniques, and minimising stress to the horse and risks to yourself and others
5. the importance of accurate and timely loading procedures
6. the basic psychology of horses under stress
7. how to handle and load racehorses with due regard to time, safety and welfare
8. how to handle and load difficult or inexperienced racehorses
9. how to work effectively in a team
10. how to communicate effectively with colleagues, officials and jockeys
11. how to recognise and deal with problems with horses and tack
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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