
Overview

This standard is about the evaluation, review and modification of training programmes for performance horses. It is for those who are involved in managing the training of performance horses.

This involves observing the horse's response and obtaining feedback about the horse's performance, making critical analysis of the effectiveness of the training programme and adapting the training programme, depending on the response of the horse.

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 ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, at all times.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. evaluate and review the training programme at regular intervals against the agreed objectives and training needs of the performance horse
2. obtain feedback on the horse's response to training from relevant personnel
3. analyse the information obtained and record the results
4. assess the horse's athletic ability and decide the competitive campaign strategy
5. modify the training programme to meet the reviewed objectives
6. discuss the evaluation and modifications with relevant personnel
7. ensure appropriate records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
8. assess hazards and control the risks to horses, yourself and others in connection with this activity

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the psychological and physical effects that training may have on the horse
2. how to recognise physiological and psychological problems in horses and how to deal with these
3. seasonal and environmental effects on specific activities
4. the reasons for blood testing and weighing and the interpretation of results
5. the importance of being aware of banned and prohibited substances
6. the value of regular evaluation and how this can improve the quality of training that the horse receives
7. why it is important to agree future modifications to training programmes with all relevant personnel
8. how to evaluate and review the training programme against the objectives
9. how to establish and maintain accurate performance records for individual horses
10. how to assess the condition and fitness of performance horses
11. the resources needed to train horses to optimum fitness
12. the factors that may require a review of potential performance
13. the advantages and disadvantages of different training methods and aids
14. the welfare of a horse at the end of its career
15. the importance of establishing and maintaining records
16. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
17. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Scope/range

Evaluate and review training programmes for the following types of horse:

- experienced
- inexperienced
- unfit
- fit

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