

Train horses to work in harness

Overview

This standard is about being able to train horses to work in harness.

It involves understanding horse behaviour and being able to assess horses for their suitability for a variety of harness horse work, including recreational driving, competition driving, commercial work, and agricultural and land-based work.

It involves being able to develop and implement training plans for individual horses, and to monitor the effectiveness of the training plans. It includes being able to work with and supervise others.

The horses being trained will range from young, inexperienced horses, to mature and experienced riding horses, which are being trained to be driven in harness, as well as training single horses to work as part of a multiple, and multiple horses to work as singles. It may include specialist training of heavy horses to work with horse-drawn agricultural and land-based implements and equipment.

The standard also includes training experienced harness horses for a range of commercial work, including weddings, funerals and carrying passengers, plus training for specialist commercial work. The standard includes training driving horses for general purpose use and sale, and also for the specific requirements of clients.

Requirements:

- general purpose driving and re-sale
- showing and competition driving
- commercial work
- agricultural and land-based work
- company with other horses
- proximity to crowds and spectators
- specialist commercial uses.

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.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. ensure appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is worn for the activity
2. assess horses for their suitability to be trained to work in harness
3. develop and implement training programmes for individual horses, to meet a range of requirements
4. carry out the training of horses to work in harness
5. introduce horses to voice aids, noises behind them, traffic, etc.
6. introduce horses to harness, weight-pulling and vehicles/implements
7. train horses to be driven for specific purposes and/or in specific situations
8. train horses according to the client's requirements
9. use humane and effective training methods
10. brief and use assistants appropriately
11. ensure appropriate records of training are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
12. 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. your role and responsibilities in training horses to work in harness
2. the clothing and personal protective equipment that should be worn for the activity
3. the principles of training horses to work in harness
4. horse psychology and behaviour and how this affects training
5. how to assess horses for their suitability for training for a range of harness work
6. how to identify the client's requirements, and how to relate these to the training of the horse
7. a range of humane, safe and effective training methods
8. how to develop and implement training plans for individual horses
9. how to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the training plan
10. how to monitor and minimise stress in the horse during training
11. how to train horses for specialist commercial requirements
12. how to train horses to work with agricultural and land-based horse-drawn implements and equipment
13. how to work with and supervise assistants involved in horse training
14. how to care for the horse in training
15. how to relate nutrition, non-driving training exercise, rest and recreation to the training programme
16. the importance of establishing and maintaining records of training
17. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
18. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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