

Handle, transport and prepare a horse for timber work

Overview

This standard describes the handling, transporting and preparation of horses for timber work, including the extraction of timber from forest or woodland.

Either a single horse or a pair of horses can be used to extract timber over a range of terrains.

With a single horse you will use trace chains and shafted equipment for forwarding and skidding timber. With a pair of horses you will use traces with a double tree, shafts and pole to extract timber.

It is very important to ensure the care and welfare of horses throughout the operation, including maintaining and reporting on horse health and hoof care.

There is no requirement to use a horse on a public road.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed works
2. select and implement appropriate working methods, in accordance with the assessed risks
3. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
4. maintain the security of the horse(s) and equipment
5. carry out routine checks and maintenance procedures on equipment, following the manufacturer's recommendations
6. load the horse(s) into transport, care for the horse(s) in transit and unload the horse(s) from transport
7. prepare the horse(s) for timber work giving due regard to horse welfare
8. select, check, prepare and fit suitable harness for the timber work being carried out
9. handle the horse(s) to maintain control and welfare throughout operations
10. maintain the safety of yourself and others and the welfare of the horse at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. emergency planning and procedures for the site
5. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised when handling, transporting and preparing the horse(s)
6. the implications of terrain, ground conditions, season, weather and timber type on handling, transporting and preparing the horse(s)
7. the need to carry out checks and maintenance on equipment
8. the procedures involved in transporting and preparing horses for extraction work
9. how to select, check, prepare and fit various types of horse harness
10. the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of horse harness
11. how to handle horses safely and with regard to their welfare
12. how to provide for and maintain, horse welfare including the provision of rest, food and water
13. the capabilities of the horse(s) used, in relation to fitness, temperament, experience, size, weight and the type of equipment used
14. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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Glossary

Harness – Scandinavian, trace, plough, cart

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