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## Overview

This standard involves supporting the driver of a horse-drawn vehicle while driving. It covers acting as an assistant to the driver during the drive, monitoring and reporting on the activities of traffic and other road users to the driver and taking appropriate action as instructed, assisting with negotiating road junctions, and maintaining control of the horse(s) when halted.

You will be able to adjust harness when appropriate. This unit also involves being able to mount and dismount from the horse-drawn vehicle while it is moving, and running ahead of the horse(s). You will be able to work with others as part of the driving crew.

The work described in this standard would be carried out following agreement with a supervisor about the responsibilities and methods of work.

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 in the workplace.

## Support the driver of a horse-drawn vehicle whilst driving

**Performance criteria**

## You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity, according to instructions
2. assist with carrying out routine pre-drive safety checks
3. support the driver of the horse-drawn vehicle by monitoring and reporting on potential hazards that may affect the safe driving of the horses and vehicle
4. monitor the reactions of horses to objects and situations and report on these to the driver
5. mount and dismount the horse-drawn vehicle as appropriate during the drive
6. assist with negotiating road junctions and obstacles
7. carry out adjustments to the harness and horse-drawn vehicle while driving according to instructions
8. assist with maintaining control of horses while halted
9. check over and care for horses after use; report any areas of concern and take action to maintain the horses' welfare, as instructed
10. check over the harness and horse-drawn vehicle; report any areas of wear, tear or damage, and take action as instructed
11. maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse, during the activity

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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 role and responsibilities in relation to supporting the driver during the drive
3. the law and codes of practice relating to driving harness horses on and off the public highway
4. how to carry out routine pre-drive checks on horses, harness and horse-drawn vehicles
5. how to mount and dismount the horse-drawn vehicle safely while moving
6. how to assist with negotiating road junctions and moving out into traffic
7. how to assist with negotiating gateways and obstacles
8. the importance of being alert to the activities of other road users
9. the importance of being able to make judgments about the activities of other road users in relation to the horse-drawn vehicle, and to communicate effectively with the driver
10. how to communicate effectively with other road users
11. the normal behaviour of horses while being driven, and how to assist with maintaining control of horses as instructed
12. how to maintain effective control of horses while stationary
13. how to recognise signs of stress or agitation in the harnessed horse while being driven and while stationary
14. the actions to take to minimise or eliminate stress in the harnessed horse, while being driven and while stationary
15. risks to horses, yourself and others and how these can be minimised
16. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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**Scope/range**

Driving activities include:

- exercise and schooling
- training and teaching
- exhibition
- show-ring driving
- on the public highway
- off the public highway

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