

Overview

This standard is about supporting the training of horses to work in harness. You will be able to support the harness horse trainer with training horses to work in harness, including introducing voice aids, items of harness, weight pulling and horse-drawn vehicles or agricultural implements to individual horses at various stages of training.

It requires the ability to handle young, inexperienced horses as well as mature horses being trained to a new role, plus knowledge and understanding of horse behaviour and the ability to recognise signs of stress in 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 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. work with others to support the implementation of a programme designed to train individual horses to work in harness
3. monitor the reactions of individual horses to each stage of training
4. report on the effectiveness of each stage of training, and the reactions of individual horses
5. contribute to the review of the training programme and methods
6. implement agreed revisions to the training programme and re-evaluate the revised training programme/methods
7. introduce voice aids, noises, items of harness, weight pulling, and horse-drawn vehicles or implements to the novice horse in training
8. monitor the health and wellbeing of horses, and identify signs of stress during training
9. take appropriate actions to eliminate or minimise stress
10. monitor and maintain the health and safety of yourself and others and the welfare of the horse during the activity

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 supporting the training of horses to work in harness
3. the principles of training horses to work in harness
4. horse behaviour and how this relates to the training programme
5. humane and effective training methods
6. how to recognise signs of stress in horses during training
7. how to assess the effectiveness of each stage of training
8. how to report on the effectiveness and reactions of individual horses to each stage of training,
9. how to make an effective contribution to discussions about training plan revisions
10. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
11. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

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Suite Equine

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