

## Overview

This standard is about being able to drive pairs of harness horses for exercise, fitness and schooling. It covers being able to drive pairs of harness horses accurately and effectively in an enclosed area, on off-road tracks and cross-country as well as being able to drive safely on the public highway.

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.

---

## Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity
2. select the harness and horse-drawn vehicles appropriate for the horse and for the intended use
3. carry out pre-drive routine safety checks, harness up the horse and put-to the vehicle
4. drive pairs of harness horses for exercise, fitness and schooling
5. drive using the English Coaching Style of rein handling
6. use the driving whip correctly and appropriately
7. take appropriate action when driving in proximity of pedestrians, dogs, farm livestock, machinery and when encountering unusual objects, activities or noises
8. drive up and down gradients correctly
9. halt and move off smoothly from the halt
10. make effective use of the harness horse groom
11. maintain control of the horses at all times
12. drive pairs of harness horses in company with other horses
13. minimise stress in the horses while driving
14. 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 relation to driving pairs of harness horses for exercise, fitness and schooling
3. how to select the harness and horse-drawn vehicles appropriate for the horses and for the intended use
4. how to maintain the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, while driving
5. how to recognise signs of stress and ill-health in the horse and how to eliminate or minimise these while driving
6. how to maintain control of the horses while harnessing up, putting-to/taking out, driving and when stationary
7. how to make effective use of the harness horse groom
8. how to drive with consideration for other road users and communicate with them effectively
9. how to carry out a sequence of driving movements in an enclosed area for the purposes of training, schooling or exercise
10. how to maintain control of the driving horses in a range of situations
11. how to recognise signs of wear, tear or damage to the harness or vehicle while driving, and what actions to take
12. the risks to horses, yourself and others and how these are controlled
13. your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice.

Drive pairs of harness horses for exercise, fitness and schooling

---

**Developed by** Lantra

---

**Version Number** 2

---

**Date Approved** January 2017

---

**Indicative Review Date** January 2021

---

**Validity** Current

---

**Status** Original

---

**Originating Organisation** Lantra

---

**Original URN** LANEq341

---

**Relevant Occupations** Equine Supervisor

---

**Suite** Equine

---

**Keywords** equine; horses; harness; driving

---