

Overview

This standard is about being able to drive single harness horses for exercise, fitness and schooling purposes. It covers being able to drive single harness horses accurately and effectively in an enclosed area, on off- road tracks and roads for general routine exercise.

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.

Drive single harness horses for exercise and schooling

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. select and wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment for the activity
2. select the horse, vehicle and harness suitable for the intended use
3. carry out pre-drive routine safety checks
4. drive single harness horses for exercise, fitness and schooling
5. drive using a recognised style of rein handling
6. use the driving whip correctly and appropriately
7. accurately carry out a sequence of driving movements in an enclosed area for the purposes of training, schooling or exercise
8. drive horses on different types of ground
9. halt and move off smoothly from the halt
10. communicate effectively with the groom and horse
11. take appropriate action to maintain control of the horse in a range of situations
12. monitor the behaviour of the horse and drive in a way that minimises stress
13. follow relevant legislation and codes of practice when 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 driving single harness horses for exercise, fitness and schooling
3. how to select the harness and horse-drawn vehicles appropriate for the horse and the intended use
4. how to carry out routine pre-drive fitness and suitability checks on the horse
5. how to carry out pre-drive suitability and safety checks on the harness and vehicle
6. how to recognise signs of stress and ill-health in the horse and how to eliminate or minimise these while driving
7. the correct rein and whip-handling techniques
8. how to maintain control of the horse while driving and stationary
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 drive single harness horses on different types of ground
11. how to drive with consideration for and communicate effectively with, other road users
12. how to approach and negotiate road junctions, roundabouts, controlled crossings, stationary vehicles and items on the roadside correctly
13. how to maintain control of the driving horse in a range of situations
14. how to communicate with and make effective use of the Harness Horse Groom
15. how to recognise signs of wear, tear or damage to the harness or vehicle while driving, and what actions to take
16. the relevant legislation and codes of practice
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.

Drive single harness horses for exercise 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 LANEq347

Relevant Occupations Equine Supervisor

Suite Equine

Keywords equine; horses; harness; driving
