

## Overview

This standard is about training harness horses to an advanced standard.

This involves training harness horses to a very high standard for specialist work, which could include ceremonial events and parades, driving exhibitions, high-profile public events, etc.

You will be able to train harness horses to a very high standard to work as high performance harness horses.

The standard includes an expert knowledge and understanding of horse behaviour, and the ability to devise and implement training methods that are humane and effective.

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 ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, at all times.

## Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. identify the purpose for which the harness horses are to be trained
2. ensure that appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is worn for the activity
3. assess the horses for their suitability for the intended use
4. evaluate the responses of individual horses to high-profile, specialist harness horse work
5. devise humane and effective training methods that minimise stress during training
6. implement a training programme designed to train the horses to an advanced standard for the intended use
7. select a Harness Horse Driver and Grooms crew to work with the horses
8. train and rehearse the horses and crew for the intended specialist use
9. evaluate the effectiveness of the training programme
10. ensure that appropriate records of training are maintained and stored as required by the relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
11. assess hazards and control risks to horses, yourself and others in connection with this activity

## Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. your role and responsibilities in training harness horses to an advanced standard for specialist high-profile work
2. the clothing and personal protective equipment that should be worn for the activity
3. horse behaviour and temperament in relation to external influences
4. how to determine the criteria for selecting horses for specialist work
5. how to devise and implement humane and effective training methods
6. how to put together combinations of horses for specialist work
7. how to work with a driver and Harness Horse Grooms crew while training the horses
8. how to determine and meet training targets
9. how to rehearse horses and crew for specialist work
10. how to evaluate the effectiveness of training programmes
11. how to adapt training programmes for different specialist work
12. the importance of establishing and maintaining records of training
13. how to ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, during this activity

**Scope/range**

External influences:

- unusual and excessive noise
- proximity of large crowds
- unusual objects and activities
- working at speed and/or under pressure
- working in unusual areas.

Train harness horses to an advanced standard

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