
Overview

This standard is about being able to drive teams of four horses for general purposes. It includes being able to select horses for general purpose work according to their physical ability and fitness, temperament, experience and appearance. You will be able to make informed decisions relating to the positioning of individual horses in the team, and the introduction of new horses to the team. You will be able to select and fit harness for a range of specialist work, and select from a range of suitable horse-drawn vehicles. You will understand how to set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance.

The standard includes being able to direct the activities of the harness horse grooms crew while preparing horses to be driven, putting-to/taking out and while driving.

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 self and others and the welfare of the horses at all times.

Drive teams of four horses for general purposes

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. identify the general purposes for which the team of four horses will be used
2. ensure that appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is worn for the activity
3. select individual horses that are suitable for the intended team work
4. select horses that complement one another when driving as a team of four
5. assess the temperament of individual horses, and evaluate their suitability for a range of general purpose uses
6. determine the positioning of individual horses within a team of four according to their individual merits
7. select horse-drawn vehicles that are suitable for the required purpose
8. select and fit harness to individual horses
9. carry out routine pre-drive checks on horses, harness and vehicles
10. direct the activities of the crew of harness horse grooms to assist with maintaining the safety and welfare of the team of four horses while they are being driven
11. drive teams of four horses for general purposes in accordance with relevant legislative requirements and codes of practice, and with consideration for other road users
12. monitor the horses' behaviour while driving, and take positive action to minimise stress and maintain their wellbeing
13. ensure the care of the horses after use
14. ensure that the harness and vehicle are cleaned and maintained after use
15. ensure that appropriate records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
16. assess the hazards and control the risks to horses, yourself and others in connection with this activity

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. your role and responsibilities in driving teams of four horses for general purposes
2. the clothing and personal protective equipment that should be worn for the activity
3. the criteria for selecting suitable individual horses for the team
4. the criteria for selecting horses to work together as part of a team of four
5. how to assess the fitness and ability of individual horses for team work
6. how to assess the temperament and behaviour of individual horses
7. the criteria for determining the positioning of each horse within a team of four
8. how to fit, set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance
9. how to select suitable horse-drawn vehicles
10. how to monitor individual horses while driving as a team of four
11. how to evaluate the effectiveness of a team of four as a whole while driving
12. how to minimise stress and how to positively promote the wellbeing of horses while driving
13. how to direct the crew of harness horse grooms to assist effectively with maintaining control, and the safety and welfare of the horses while driving
14. the legislative requirements and codes of practice relating to driving horses on the public highway
15. the importance of establishing and maintaining records
16. how to ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, during this activity.

Drive teams of four horses for general purposes

Scope/range

Select horses according to:

- fitness and ability
- height and stride length
- experience, training and temperament
- appearance
- suitability for working together.

Situations:

- general
- commercial
- exercise
- schooling.

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