

## Overview

This standard is about being able to drive horses for specialist purposes.

It includes being able to select horses for specialist 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 multiples, and the introduction of new horses to a multiple.

You will understand how to set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance.

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.

## Drive horses for specialist purposes

**Performance criteria**

You must be able to:

1. identify the specialist purposes for which the horses will be used
2. ensure that appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is worn for the activity
3. select horses that are suitable and complement one another for the intended specialist purpose
4. assess the temperament of individual horses, and evaluate their suitability for a range of general purpose uses
5. determine the positioning of individual horses within a multiple according to their individual merits
6. select horse-drawn vehicles that are suitable for the specialist purpose
7. select and fit harnesses to individual horses
8. carry out routine pre-drive checks on horses, harnesses and vehicles
9. handle the reins correctly for the specialist use
10. be responsible for the care of the horses after use
11. be responsible for cleaning, maintaining and storing the harness and vehicle after use
12. direct the activities of the crew of Harness Horse Grooms to assist with maintaining the safety and welfare of the horses while being driven
13. drive horses for specialist purposes in accordance with relevant legislative requirements and codes of practice, and with consideration for other road users
14. monitor the horses' behaviour while driving, and take positive action to minimise stress and maintain their wellbeing
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

## Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. your role and responsibilities in driving horses for specialist purposes
2. the clothing and personal protective equipment that should be worn for the activity
3. the criteria for selecting suitable single horses for the specialist purpose
4. the criteria for selecting horses to work together as part of a multiple
5. how to assess the fitness and ability of individual horses for specialist work
6. how to assess the temperament and behaviour of individual horses
7. the criteria for determining the positioning of each horse within a multiple
8. how to fit, set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance
9. how to set up and adjust tandems and unicorns
10. how to select suitable specialist horse-drawn vehicles
11. how to monitor individual horses while driving as a multiple
12. how to handle the reins correctly in relation to the specialist purpose
13. how to evaluate the effectiveness of a multiple as a whole while driving
14. how to minimise stress and how to positively promote the wellbeing of horses while driving
15. 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
16. the risks associated with tandems and unicorns
17. the relevant legislative requirements and codes of practice relating to driving horses on the public highway for specialist purposes
18. the importance of establishing and maintaining records
19. how to ensure the safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, during this activity.

**Scope/range**

Select multiples of horses which complement one another when driving, in terms of:

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

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