
Overview

This standard is about being able to drive teams of four harness horses for exercise and schooling. It includes being able to select horses to form a team according to their fitness, experience and ability to work together.

You will be able to make informed decisions relating to the positioning of individual horses in 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 yourself and others, and the welfare of the horses, at all times

Drive a team of four harness horses for exercise and schooling

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. identify the purpose for which the team of four horses will be used
2. ensure appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment is worn for the activity
3. select the individual horses that are suitable for the intended teamwork
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 purpose
8. select the harness and fit to individual horses
9. set up and adjust the harness for optimum performance
10. carry out routine pre-drive checks on horses, harness and vehicles
11. drive a team of four harness horses for exercise and schooling
12. be responsible for the care for the horses after use
13. be responsible for cleaning, maintaining and storing the harness and vehicle after use
14. 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 being driven
15. drive a team of four harness horses in accordance with relevant legislative requirements and codes of practice, and with consideration for other road users
16. monitor the horses' behaviour while driving, and take positive action to minimise stress and maintain their wellbeing
17. ensure that appropriate records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the organisation you work for
18. 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 driving teams of four horses for exercise and schooling
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 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 a team of four 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	LANEq506
Relevant Occupations	Equine Manager
Suite	Equine
Keywords	equine; horses; harness; exercise
