

# **HEAVY HORSE TRAINING COMMITTEE**

## **EVENT DRIVING COMPETENCE ASSESSMENT WITH THE SINGLE OR PAIR OF DRIVEN HORSE/S TRADE TURNOUT AND OR AGRICULTURAL VEHICLE AND IMPLEMENT**

**(ASSESSMENT CAN COVER BOTH AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE ACTIVITIES AND PAIR  
ASSESSMENT CAN INCORPORATE SINGLE supplementary assessment fees apply**

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The Heavy Horse Training Committee [www.heavyhorsetrainingcommittee.co.uk](http://www.heavyhorsetrainingcommittee.co.uk) | 07831198768

### **Event Driving Competence Guidelines**

This assessment is recommended as a minimum competence for safely driving a single or pair of horses at a public event.

The competence will be assessed by direct observation of practical performance and oral questioning of the underpinning knowledge. The assessment is to be carried out using the appropriate rein handling. English coaching style rein-handling for trade turnout (reins held in the left hand with right hand supporting).

The assessor reserves the right to abort the assessment at any point should they deem necessary on health or safety grounds. In this instance no fee refund will be offered.

### **MODULE 1 - Prepare for Use**

#### ***Requirements***

Horse: 5 years or over with a minimum of one year's driving experience. It must be quiet in company and suitable for the requirements of the test.

Harness: A sound set of harness suitable for the horse/s, vehicle or implement intended for use.

Vehicle / Implement: A 2 or 4 wheeled Vehicle and/or an implement suitable for ground type

Location: Controlled, secure environment suitable for putting to e.g. stable yard, school, arena, or field

#### ***Criteria***

- \* Control of horse/s is maintained at all times
- \* Harness is selected and fitted to horse/s appropriate for the job
- \* Horse/s are put to using laid down procedures
- \* Health and safety of horse, self and others is maintained at all times

#### ***Knowledge and Understanding***

- \* Safety precautions to be taken when handling horse/s
- \* Importance of safety checks
- \* Dangers of inappropriate procedures when adjusting harness
- \* Suitability of shoeing for road (if applicable)
- \* Safety clothing and their use
- \* Carrying of adequate spares and their potential use
- \* Importance of correctly fitting harness

## **MODULE 2 - Drive in an enclosed environment using the English Coaching style of rein-handling e.g. reins in the left hand, supported by the right hand for trade turnout and/or appropriately for other applications**

### ***Requirements***

Secure location/driving area e.g. field, enclosed arena/school

Obstacles and hazards as encountered naturally at a public event.

Simulation or questioning can be used to cover any of the following that are not covered naturally in the drive including spectators, varying surfaces, gradients, differing weather conditions, noise levels and fellow exhibitors.

- \* Driver and groom of the vehicle / implement should position themselves in a safe appropriate position
- \* The vehicle/implement is mounted using safe procedure (if applicable)
- \* The whip is taken up (if applicable)
- \* Horse/s and vehicle are driven smoothly and appropriately to conditions and discipline
- \* A correct position is maintained to ensure a safe and effective performance
- \* Naturally occurring obstacles and hazards and negotiated safely
- \* Safety procedures are adhered to at all times
- \* Health and safety of horse, self, other exhibitors, and spectators are maintained at all times

### ***Knowledge and Understanding***

- \* Horse/s reaction when working alone and in company
- \* Effects of weather on ground conditions
- \* Use of the whip and voice
- \* Types of hand and whip signals if applicable
- \* Procedure in the event of an accident
- \* The importance of adopting the English coaching style of rein-handling (trade turnout only)

## **ELEMENT 3 - Attend to Horse and Vehicle after Driving**

### ***Criteria***

- \* Vehicle/Implement is parked and secured at a suitable location
- \* Horse/s are taken out of the vehicle/implement using safe practise
- \* Horse is unharnessed using laid down procedure
- \* Harness is returned to the appropriate place
- \* Control of horse/s are maintained throughout
- \* Health and safety of horse, self and others is maintained at all times

### ***Knowledge and Understanding***

- \* Safe procedure when unharnessing
- \* Recommended cooling down procedure
- \* Method of securing the vehicle/implement after use
- \* When and how to use assistance
- \* How to make safety checks to the vehicle/implement