



## ACCREDITATION BOARD REPORTS

### **Introduction**

The Accreditation Board visits a country for an initial visit at the request of the national association, when that association feels that the training and examination system meets or exceeds the standards set by EFFA for the European Farrier in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The report will then be presented to the next Annual General Meeting (AGM) for endorsement. If the AGM awards accreditation as fully meeting the EFFA standards, the national association will be entitled to nominate farriers as Certified Euro-Farriers. If the AGM awards conditional accreditation, the national association will be able to nominate Certified Euro-Farriers, but will have to accept a re-visit, normally one year later, to demonstrate that all conditions have been met. If the AGM decides that the standards of training or examination do not meet the EFFA standards, accreditation will not be awarded. In such cases, the national association may request a further visit when the shortcomings identified in the original report have been rectified.

Once a national association has been accredited, it must have a re-accreditation visit every 6 years.

#### The full report consists of:

- Introduction
- Previous Reports and Recommendations
- Report on the Suitability of the Training Programme
- Resources
- Examination Standards of Competence
- Review of the Organisation and Management of Examinations
- General Comments
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

The report will look at these areas in considerable depth, and will make comments on strengths and weaknesses, and will identify any areas that do not meet the EFFA standards. In order to allow detailed and frank reporting, these full reports are kept confidential. However, the General Comments and Conclusions in respect of nations meeting the EFFA standards are written so that they may be made public. The General Comments and Conclusions for accredited nations follow. Where a nation has been the subject of a re-accreditation visit or a second visit after failing to achieve accreditation, only the latest report is included.



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**AUSTRIA** (FEBRUARY 2006/FEBRUARY 2007)

## **General Comments**

Members of the board were impressed with the friendly and relaxed approach of the examiners which was helpful to the candidates at such a stressful time. They also noted the good practice which requires the candidate to have his/her fitting work checked at every stage before being given approval to move to the next. This is obviously beneficial to the welfare of the horse.

Candidates and teachers are congratulated on their high standards of blacksmithing which were obvious in the work displayed in the forge at the practical examination. However some candidates appeared to lack experience in relating shoe-making to fitting the shoe and trimming the feet, possibly because they had insufficient experience in these activities.

The Board considers that the number of passes awarded was generous in relation to the accepted EFFA Standards of Competence. This was due to the disproportionate effect of the weightings for certain criteria in the practical shoemaking and shoeing examination.

Members were surprised that some candidates were allowed to exceed the time limit for the examination without disqualification or penalty. The examination area should be controlled by an Invigilator with only the examiners, candidates and other authorised personnel allowed in the area and with only the individual candidate and the examiners allowed to examine and comment on his/her own work.

The Board was privileged to witness the oral examination of a candidate for the fellowship. It was impressed by the commitment of the Austrian Farriers Association to both improved standards (the fellowship) and ongoing professional development which speaks well for the future of Austrian farriery.

## **Conclusions**

**The EFFA Accreditation Board recommend conditional approval of the Austrian Certified Farrier training and qualification for accreditation and certification in accordance with the Standards of Basic Competence in Farriery as Approved by the European Federation of Farriery Associations.**

**This recommendation is subject to the condition that an experienced farriery member of the current Accreditation Board visits the next**



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**examination for farriers when the Austrian Examiners have reviewed their allocation of marks to give a more appropriate weighting of marks in favour of the important shoeing criteria.**

**Following this visit the Board member will be required to report to the Accreditation Board on the standard of forging and shoeing skills of the candidates. Subject to this report the Board will then recommend an unconditional approval or reconsider this provisional approval.**

## **Revisit**

The Accreditation Board paid a re-visit in February 2007 and as a result was able to recommend full accreditation.

Stamford (UK), April 2011 / MWN/afu