

FINLAND (May 2015)

General Comments

There was a wide range in the ability of candidates both in shoe making, and in trimming and shoe fitting. Some were excellent, some not very good, and others falling between these two extremes. Generally speaking those candidates who were apprenticed to or worked with a master showed better standards of workmanship than those who worked on their own between college blocks. Although the practice of allowing unsupervised work is not unique to Finland, most EFFA member nations do require students to be formally apprenticed to a master throughout their training.

The standards required to pass the examinations are high, and were rigorously enforced by the examiners. Candidates were debriefed by the examiners after each of the practical tests, and all accepted the final decisions on whether they had passed or not. Candidates who fail have to retake only the part of the examination in which they were unsuccessful, but may have to wait for up to a year to do so.

Many of the candidates adopted poor positioning of their bodies when shoeing, and more emphasis on ergonomics would be helpful.

There was some excellent shoemaking, but some candidates had clearly not had sufficient practice, or had allowed faults to creep in when working unsupervised.

The system for staggering starts on the shoeing exercise was particularly effective and is to be commended.

The newly produced textbook in Finnish was a great asset, and the authors are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Despite the variability in the quality of the candidates' workmanship, by applying high standards, the examiners ensured that all those who were successful in the examination fully deserved the qualification of Certified Eurofarrier. The Accreditation Board agreed with the examiners' marking.

Conclusions

The EFFA Accreditation Board recommends approval of the Finnish Kengityssepan Ammattitutkinto training and examination system as approved by the Finnish National Board of Education as meeting the standards of the European Farrier in the 21st Century as Approved by the European Federation of Farriers Associations.