

Germany (April 2016)

General Comments

The owner of the college acted as the principal tutor. He had a good relationship with the students, and was keen to see them do well.

The school made good use of external tutors for veterinary and legal instruction, and welcomed visits by company representatives to talk about their projects.

The Board was pleased to see that external examiners were used, and that both a veterinary surgeon and farriers were on the examination panel.

The school had plenty of space, although a few of the facilities such as the forging bay were crowded when all 6 students were there. There was sufficient space for at least 4 horses to be worked on, in two different rooms, although tie up points were not separated from each other, and there was the risk of horses kicking each other.

There were good level places for trotting up horses, both inside and outside the school. The external trot up area did have direct access onto a busy main road.

The examination was very thorough and tested all areas of the training, not only basic shoemaking and shoeing, but also barefoot trimming and the use of alternative materials. It is one of the most comprehensive examinations that the Board has seen.

The candidates were allowed to associate with each other before the various horse assessments and discussed the horses between themselves. This could lead to weaker candidates receiving help.

The system of training and examination in Germany is structured and directed by the national authorities. This ensures a consistent approach between all colleges, whether state run or private, and makes sure that the standards required for success in the examination are the same everywhere.

EDHV provided good support to the Board and were clearly closely involved and supportive of the national initiatives to raise and standardise farriery standards throughout Germany. It was good to see that on this occasion BVM was also represented.

The Board was concerned that candidates taking the short route to qualification (ie only 1 year practical training) may find it difficult to achieve the required practical skills in the time allotted. The Board also noted that students on the 2 year course did not receive any formal instruction between the time when they completed the initial 4 week course and the final 4 months at college. The Board understands that EDHV is investigating the possibility of providing weekend training for masters and students, and strongly supports this initiative.

It was noted that it was to the advantage of all schools that they could assess the forging and shoemaking skills of students before allowing them to start the 4 months college training. State run and many of the private run schools on the other hand take all students, regardless of their experience or their will to succeed, if they are in need of money. This was not the case at Hufbeschlag Schule Schweppe.

Overall, it was felt to be a good system of training, and a very comprehensive examination carried out according to nationally agreed principles.

8. **Conclusions :**

The EFFA Accreditation Board recommends approval of the German training and examination system as approved by the German Ministry of Agriculture as meeting the Standards of the European Farrier in the 21st Century as Approved by the European Federation of Farriers Associations.