



## **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.



# European Federation of Farriers Associations

Certified Euro Farrier / Accreditation Board Reports

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## Re-Accreditation Visit to the Nederlandse Vereniging van Hoefsmeden in Holland (28th to 30st of June 2010 / Deurne)

### General Comments

The Board was particularly impressed with the efforts that the college and the Dutch Farriers Association had made since the previous visit to address matters of concern, and to develop the examination. Specially commended were:

- the shortening of the examination time
- restricting access to the examination area to the examiners and candidates
- ensuring that horse handlers assessed a different horse
- reducing the number of examiners on the horse assessment to one veterinary surgeon and one farrier
- ensuring that tutors no longer examine their own students
- rectifying differences between the national training programme and the EFFA standards
- having external specialist lecturers for topics such as glues and plastic shoes
- giving the examiners discretion to fail candidates if any of their actions could result in serious horse welfare issues, even if the overall marks are satisfactory
- introducing the college Examination Secretary into the process, and establishing a formal post-examination review with all members of the team
- introducing a formal procedure during which candidates are informed of their results and given the chance to ask questions
- introducing the requirement for the college farrier examiner to be formally qualified in examination techniques

This process of development is not expected to finish with this visit, and future changes and improvements are under active development. The main change to the practical shoeing exercise will be the shoeing of four rather than two feet.

The Board was impressed with the friendly and relaxed approach of the examiners. The examination results gave a true reflection of the candidates' skills and expertise.

### Conclusions

**The EFFA Accreditation Board has no hesitation in recommending candidates achieving the Dutch Farriery Certificate, Gespecialiseerde Dierverzorging Paard Uitstroomrichting Hoefsmid, Crebo 97510 for continuing accreditation and certification in accordance with the Standards of the European Farrier in the 21st Century as approved by the European Federation of Farriers Associations.**

Stamford (UK), April 2011 / MWN/afu