



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 21st 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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SWITZERLAND (MAY 2004 / MAY 2005)

General Comments

Members of the Board see it as a minimum requirement that any Farriery Qualification receiving accreditation under the EFFA standards must, in addition to achieving the Standards as laid down, ensure that a farrier so qualified must be able to carry out the shoeing of equines without risk of injury or suffering to the animal.

The Members of the Board wish to thank all staff and examiners for the cordial way in which they were received and to congratulate the SMU and the Army Farriery Training Centre on the high standard of resources available for the examination. The army forge and associated facilities are ideal for the examination and training and were well provided with high quality staff.

It is of concern to the Accreditation Board that the group of examinees observed had not completed their eighteen weeks training with the army. This may well be the reason for them not meeting the forging standards expected by the Board.

A further problem identified was the limitation of the type of horse found in Switzerland. A lack of exposure to a wider variety of horse types must be taken into account and the Swiss training organisations need to consider their approach to training apprentices for the wider variety of horses their farriers will come across in other European countries.

Conclusions

The EFFA Accreditation Board recommend conditional approval for the "Swiss Farrier with certificate of competence by the Swiss Confederation" ("Hufschmied mit Fähigkeitszeugnis") for accreditation and certification in accordance with the Standards of Basic Competence in Farriery as Approved by the European Federation of Farriers Association.

The Board was concerned that the level of marks for practical work awarded by the examiners was over generous. It is felt that this was possibly due to the examiners being aware that the candidates had not received all their training and were subconsciously compensating for this in their marking but, it is important in the interests of the welfare of



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the horse and also for the future of Swiss farriery that minimum standards are upheld.

To this end it is recommended that consideration is given to the level of the pass mark for the practical examination.

This recommendation for conditional approval is subject to the condition that farriery members of the current Accreditation Board visit the next SMU examination for farriers at which the candidates will have completed the eighteen weeks of army farriery training.

Following this visit the Board members 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 May 2005 and as a result was able to recommend *full accreditation*.

The next revisit is planned in 2013 when the first class will pass the final qualification under the new education regulations in farriery (introduced in 2009).

Stamford (UK), April 2011 / MWN/afu