



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.



Report on a Re-Accreditation Visit to the Farrier Associations of the United Kingdom (28th to 30st of July 2010)

General Comments

The apprenticeship as a whole, which consists of a clear statement of standards to be achieved, ongoing assessment across all aspects, and a final examination bringing everything together, ensured that all successful candidates were well qualified to become self-employed farriers. Examination standards were high but fair, and particularly in relation to the standard of hand-made shoemaking exceeded those seen in other European nations that have been accredited.

Members of the Accreditation Board were impressed with the examiners' professional approach to standards, and their encouragement of candidates to give of their best. Candidates were well briefed and knew what was expected of them.

The system of marking independently and comparing marks at the end of the day, then immediately producing a draft grade, meant that assessment was fair and that any anomalies could be resolved immediately. The Registrar and Craft Secretary had an excellent well-documented system to ensure that the selection of examiners, the setting of papers, the process of assessment and the production of final results and grades was accurate and fair. There were good appeals procedures if needed.

The documentation supporting the National Vocational Qualification was very comprehensive and ensured common standards for all. Any other EFFA nation considering setting up a new examination is encouraged to ask for sight of the UK documentation to use as a template.

The Board was disappointed that the Worshipful Company of Farriers had rejected the Board's previous recommendation to include an assessment of conformation, action when moving and the production of a shoeing plan at the pre-shoeing inspection.

The examiners extended an invitation to the Accreditation Board to observe a higher level examination to see the progressive nature of the qualifications offered.



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Conclusions

The EFFA Accreditation Board are satisfied that they can recommend candidates completing the Advanced Apprenticeship in Farriery and achieving the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers for re-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