



THE EUROPEAN FARRIER IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Final approved version of the new European Farrier in the 21st Century standards (AGM Saumur 15/11/2008)

1. Qualification
2. Units
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5. Knowledge requirements

THE EUROPEAN FARRIER IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Qualification

The qualification is based on the skills, the knowledge and the attitudes required to practice the profession

Units

The units form the different parts of the qualification

Performance criteria

The performance criteria describe what you see the person actually doing

Qualification

The basic standards for the qualification of a European farrier

Units

- A. Equine knowledge
- B. Determine care requirements of the equine foot
- C. Maintain tools
- D. Produce and modify shoes
- E. Trim and shoe equine feet
- F. Health, safety and security

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A. Equine knowledge

Performance criteria

The student can:

1. Correctly identify the equine to be moved, and move it carefully using an appropriate method
2. Approach and control the equine in a manner which is likely to eliminate stress and alarm any time the equine is handled
3. Assess the gait of the equine and its relationship to its conformation
4. Correctly use the equipment appropriate to the situation, the equine and its temperament
5. Adopt working methods which promote good professional ethics and are consistent with and relevant to legislation and codes of practice

B. Determine care requirements of the equine foot

Performance criteria

The student can:

1. Discuss the condition of the equine and agree upon the shoeing requirements with the person in charge of the equine
2. Clean the feet, examine and accurately assess their condition
3. Propose a foot care and shoeing plan which takes all the equine's needs into account
4. Agree and, where appropriate, amend the proposed foot care and shoeing plan with the person in charge of the equine, following examination of the hoof and again after shoeing
5. Advise the person in charge of the equine of any variations from the usual foot care plan and consult the veterinary surgeon when conditions exceed the students expertise and authority

C. Maintain tools

Performance criteria

The student can:

1. Shape sections to meet the specification, thereby using appropriate techniques
2. Keep the tools in a serviceable condition
3. Check that the tools are suitable for the purpose they are to be used for and rectify any deficiencies
4. Carry out routine maintenance on equipment in accordance with instructions
5. Identify the need for advice and assistance, and seek this from the relevant person

D. Produce and modify shoes

Performance criteria

Produce basic shoes

The student can:

1. Select appropriate materials and tools for the shoes to be made
2. Maintain the fire at the necessary temperature to work the selected materials
3. Cut metal sections to lengths suitable for the manufacture of the specified shoe
4. Handle materials safely using the appropriate tongs
5. Shape sections to meet the specification using appropriate forging techniques
6. Check the finished item against the specification and make any necessary adjustments to meet the specification

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Modify shoes

The student can:

7. Check that the equipment is safe and fit for use
8. Take action to correct faulty and unsafe equipment
9. Prepare suitable materials for the purpose of the welding operation
10. Work materials to incorporate ancillary features in accordance with the specification
11. Check that the output conforms to the specification and correct where necessary

Ancillary features

1. Rolled toe
2. Stud holes
3. Fullered shoe with additional nail holes outside the fullering
4. Square toe
5. Basic bar shoe

E. Shoe equine feet

Performance criteria

Remove shoes and assess wear

The student can:

1. Remove shoes safely using tools appropriate for the task
2. Examine the shoe and assess the state of wear on all surfaces
3. Advise the person in charge of the equine of any need to adjust the foot care and shoeing plan as a result of the state of wear of the old shoes

Trim equine feet

The student can:

4. Select tools which are suitable for the work to be carried out
5. Trim the hooves safely in accordance with the agreed foot care plan
6. Balance the feet of the equine in accordance with its condition, needs and conformation
7. Amend the agreed foot care plan in consultation with the person in charge of the equine, to take account of conditions in the feet which were not previously identifiable, if appropriate

Fit shoes

The student can:

8. Select shoes of the correct type, material and size
9. Select tools suitable for the purpose of fitting shoes
10. Shape selected shoes incorporating ancillary features as determined by the foot care and shoeing plan
11. Fit the shoe to the shape and size of the foot as determined by the foot care and shoeing plan in order to achieve the final fit
12. Add any ancillary features to the shoe as determined by the needs of the equine

Attach shoes and finish the shoeing process

The student can:

13. Select tools and nails suitable for the purpose of attaching and finishing shoes
14. Attach the shoe safely, securely and in the correct position according to the foot care and shoeing plan
15. Finish the hoof according to the specification
16. Assess the finished job and the welfare of horse
17. Assess its soundness when moving
18. Inform the person in charge of the equine of the actions taken and advise on the equine's future foot care requirements

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F. Health, safety and security

Performance criteria

Human and equine

The student can and must

1. Determine the risks of the operation (risk assessment)
2. Use relevant personal protective equipment at all times according to local regulations
3. Maintain the health, safety and welfare of the equine, oneself and others throughout the process
4. Adopt a working position ensuring personal and equine comfort is achieved

Equipment and area

The student can and must

5. Maintain the working environment and equipment at a standard of health, safety and security which is consistent with good practice and legal requirements
6. Handle materials safely using the appropriate tools
7. Carry out cleaning routines regularly and effectively
8. Use equipment and materials in accordance with manufacturers' instructions
9. Keep the area free from waste at all times and dispose of waste safely in the designated area

European standards

Basic shoe (Unit D)

The student must be able to make a basic shoe.

Basic shoe elements

1. The shoe has at least six nail holes
2. The nail size and type is appropriate to the material section
3. The nail position is forward of the widest part of the shoe and at the correct angle
4. The distance between the nail holes and the outside edge is appropriate to the section and size of the shoe
5. The shoe is hand fullered
6. The heels are finished appropriate to the task and without sharp edges
7. The shoe has at least one clip
8. When finished, the shoe will lie level on the foot surface

Modifications

1. Rolled toe
2. Stud holes
3. Fullered shoe with additional nail holes outside the fullering
4. Square toe
5. Basic bar shoe

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Trimming (Unit E)

Any equine should be assessed and trimmed as an individual and according to its own conformation

The standards are:

1. The hoof is level
2. A correct medio-lateral balance imposes minimum strain on digital joints; for this purpose the trimming should not modify the inter-phalangeal axis when the horse is standing on its feet, the axis which can be observed when the foot is kept in the air.
3. A correct hoof pastern axis imposes minimum strain on digital joints; for this purpose the trimming should not modify the hoof pastern axis when the equine is standing on its feet.
4. The solar surface is close to symmetrical
5. The length of the hoof wall is safe for the application of the shoe
6. The hoof wall is not flared
7. The sole and the frog must be cleaned but kept strong

Basic shoeing (Unit E)

The standards are:

1. The shoeing is safe and does not cause discomfort or lameness
2. The shoe is of an appropriate weight and section to fulfil its tasks
3. The shoe conforms to the shape of the hoof and is fitted for length and expansion
4. After shoeing the shoe lies level on the bearing surface
5. The clip(s) fit to the hoof wall
6. The shoe is fitted with no sole pressure
7. The centre of the shoe conforms to the centre of the hoof
8. The nails fit correctly in the shoe section
9. The nails are driven into sound horn
10. The clenches and the hoof wall are finished smoothly
11. The clenches are of reasonable height and in a straight line

Knowledge requirements

A. Equine knowledge

Generalities

1. Breeds
2. Colours and marking
3. General marks of good health
4. Non-pathological qualities and defects
5. Ethology (behaviour)
6. Activities

Equine care

7. Healthcare
8. Feeding
9. Habitat
10. Restraining
11. Sedatives
12. Reportable diseases

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Functional anatomy

13. Skeleton (basic knowledge)
14. Joints
15. Main muscular groups (basic knowledge)
16. Distal limb functional anatomy below the knee and hock (skeleton, ligaments, tendons, blood circulation system, nervous system, cartilages, synovial bursae, sensitive foot, horny box)
17. Gaits

Pathologies of distal limbs (description, aetiology, management, shoes mainly used)

18. Osteo-articular system pathologies
19. Desmitis
20. Tendinitis
21. Podotrochlear syndrome (navicular disease)
22. Laminitis
23. Other foot pathologies

Limb conformations

24. Generality
25. Conformations
26. Front limb deformities
27. Hind limb deformities
28. Foot and digit deformities

B. Determine care requirements of the equine foot

29. Care of the limbs
30. Hoof care
31. Communication (with the person in charge)

C. Maintain tools

Materials and equipment

32. Tools relevant to the task
33. Materials relevant to the task
34. Properties of the materials
35. Working parameters of the equipment
36. Maintenance of tools and equipment

Working methods

37. Forging techniques
38. Hardening techniques
39. Annealing techniques
40. Sharpening techniques

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D. Produce and modify shoes

Producing shoes by forging

Basic shoes (standard)

Welding process and equipment powered by any one of the following:

41. Gas
42. Arc (electric)
43. Fire

E. Trim or shoe equine feet

Planning

44. Pulling off the shoes
45. Assessment of shoe wear and hoof state
46. Foot care and shoeing plan

Trimming (assessment, realization, standards)

47. Length
48. Balance
49. Level
50. Wall rasping
51. Frog and sole cleaning

Shoe preparation

52. Shaping
53. Level
54. Ancillary features and modifications
55. Clips
56. Balance
57. Rasping and finish

Shoeing

58. Fitting (hot, cold)
59. Nailing
60. Clenches and finish
61. Modern materials

Techniques and reasons

62. For clipping
63. For shaping
64. For boxing up
65. For clenching

Tools and materials

66. Tools
67. Use of welds, pins, plugs and studs
68. Pads

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F. Professional ethics, health, safety and security

Professional practice according to local rules

- 69. Professional integrity
- 70. Ethics
- 71. Codes of conduct
- 72. Legislation
- 73. Insurance
- 74. Environment

Health

- 75. Ergonomics
- 76. Toxic products
- 77. Zoonoses (any bacterial, microbial or fungal infection that can translate from animal to human)
- 78. Tetanus and general infections

Safety requirements, personal and others

- 79. Personal protective equipment
- 80. Equipment, workshop, vehicle, materials and shoeing area
- 81. Storage
- 82. First aid

Risk-assessment

- 83. Risk agents and exposure
- 84. Hazards
- 85. Risks
- 86. Insurance (personal and professional)