



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Horse Care: Stable Routine (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FV76 11

Superclass: SH

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Summary

This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to carry out routine stable duties under supervision, including mucking out, keeping the stable yard tidy and ensuring adequate supply and storage of feed, forage and bedding stocks. The candidate will develop an understanding of routine practices which occur on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis in a stable yard. Current health and safety regulations and safe working practices will be adhered to at all times.

This Unit is suitable for candidates who are school leavers, adult learners, school pupils, those wishing to progress onto HNC Equine Studies and also for industry CPD.

This is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Horse Care at SCQF level 5 and is also available as a free-standing Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Describe stable routines.
- 2 Undertake daily stable routine duties.
- 3 Maintain records of feed, forage and bedding.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had previous experience of handling horses.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

General information (cont)

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Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

Complete Core Skill None

Core Skill component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Describe stable routines.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe the importance of stable routines.
- (b) Explain the procedures involved in stable routines.

Outcome 2

Undertake daily stable routine duties.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify types of bedding.
- (b) Secure horse as appropriate.
- (c) Skip out and set fair a bed.
- (d) Demonstrate effective and efficient mucking out.
- (e) Maintain beds to a suitable depth.
- (f) Maintain a safe and tidy working area.
- (g) Maintain the cleanliness of the yard area.
- (h) Explain how waste material should be appropriately stored prior to disposal.
- (i) Provide feed and water to horses as appropriate.
- (j) Explain stable dimensions and fixtures/fittings.

Outcome 3

Maintain records of feed, forage and bedding.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Explain the importance of keeping records of feed, forage and bedding.
- (b) Gather and maintain records of feed, forage and bedding, over a specified period of time.
- (c) Store feed, forage and bedding correctly.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Written and/or oral and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all Outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Health and safety regulations and safe working practices and procedures and current industry codes of good practice should be adhered to at all times.

Outcome 1

Written/oral or recorded evidence must be obtained under closed-book conditions and should contain:

- ◆ Description of the importance of daily, weekly, monthly and yearly stable routines.
- ◆ Explanation of the procedures involved in daily, weekly, monthly and yearly stable routines.

Outcome 2

Written/oral/recorded, performance and product evidence must include:

- ◆ Identification of a minimum of four types of bedding, including straw and shavings.
- ◆ Securing a horse safely according to industry standard.
- ◆ Demonstration of a minimum of two beds (each with a different type of bedding) being skipped out and set fair, to a suitable depth.
- ◆ Demonstration of effective and efficient mucking out of a minimum of two beds (each with a different type of bedding).
- ◆ Demonstrate maintenance of a safe and tidy working area over a minimum of two occasions.
- ◆ Maintain the cleanliness of the yard area which must include muck heap, feed room, tack room and barn over a minimum of two occasions.
- ◆ Explanation of how waste material should be appropriately stored prior to disposal.
- ◆ Appropriate provision of feed, forage and water to horses over a minimum of two occasions.
- ◆ Explanation of dimensions for pony loose boxes, horse loose boxes, foaling boxes and yarding systems.
- ◆ Describe a minimum of four fixtures/fittings which may be in a stable.

Outcome 3

Written/oral and performance evidence must include:

- ◆ An explanation of the importance of keeping records of feed, forage and bedding.
- ◆ Maintenance of a record of feed stocks over the period of one month.
- ◆ Maintenance of a record of hay or haylage over the period of one month.
- ◆ Maintenance of a record of bedding stocks over the period of one month.
- ◆ Maintenance of feed, bedding and hay/haylage storage facilities over the period of one month.

National Unit specification: support notes

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This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the National Certificate in Horse Care, (SCQF level 5) but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

Health and safety regulations and safe working practices and procedures and current codes of good practice should be adhered to at all times.

This is a mainly practical Unit where the importance of good stable management must be stressed to the candidate. On completion of this Unit candidates will have a practical understanding of the stable routines carried out on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis. These will include mucking out, strip cleaning of tack, rug repairs and vaccinations respectively. The knowledge will be achieved through both experiential learning and classroom taught sessions. The candidate will be able to complete stable routine tasks to a satisfactory industry standard (a perfectly performed but extremely slow task would not be considered up to industry standard), demonstrating regard for working safely and efficiently in a tidy and organised environment.

Candidates should be able to select the appropriate tools and materials prior to maintaining a stable for a horse. The candidate should prepare and clean stables for a variety of horses on different types of bedding (to include straw and/or shavings), and should ensure the bed is maintained to a suitable depth (to industry standard). The candidate should tidy the main yard area (muck heap, feed room, tack room and barn) as part of the daily routine. The candidate should also be required to maintain suitable stable conditions for the horse (including ventilation and light) and will develop an understanding of stable fittings/fixtures (including mangers, tie rings, haynet rings, automatic waterers) and accepted loose box dimensions for a pony, a horse and for foaling. The candidate will also be made aware of accepted yarding system dimensions.

The candidate will be made familiar with appropriate methods for recording forage, bedding and feed stocks, and will understand the reasons for recording and maintaining such information. The importance of reporting problems highlighted by inaccurate record keeping should be emphasised. The candidate will maintain their own stable records under direction. The candidate will also take part in maintaining appropriate storage facilities for feed, bedding stocks and forage — for example, ensuring the feed room is swept out daily and helping to stack hay bales in a barn (if appropriate).

This Unit is aligned to the following Equine Industry National Occupational Standards from Lantra:

- ◆ Eq 103 Assist with Cleaning the Stables and Yard
- ◆ Eq 201 Clean, Prepare and Maintain Stables for Horses
- ◆ Eq 305 Monitor and Maintain Stocks of Feed and Bedding for Horses
- ◆ EM15 Develop an Awareness of Environmental Good Practice

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

This Unit contains a mixture of theory and practical activities. Some sessions can be classroom taught using discussion, quizzes and videos. Practical demonstrations should be used to introduce the candidate to correct stable routine procedures. Supervised real-time sessions (ie yard duties) are recommended to enable the candidate to develop the knowledge and skills which are necessary in order to achieve a sound understanding of all Outcomes. The candidate should be observed performing stable routine duties on a regular basis and inspection of completed work carried out by the candidate should be carried out and fed back on a regular basis. The candidate should demonstrate the ability to work alone and/or with others, under supervision, showing due regard to safe working practices towards themselves, horses, others around them and equipment. This includes securing the horse safely, positioning themselves safely in the stable, closing doors and placing stable tools in an appropriate position. The candidate should be able to identify stable tools, fixtures and fittings, and know stable dimensions and different types of bedding (including the reasons for using them). The candidate should be made aware of the need to maintain a tidy working area in the stable yard and should be able to describe how to build and maintain a muck heap. The candidate should use appropriate manual handling techniques and show an understanding the importance of ensuring their own personal hygiene upon completion of routine stable duties, although these components are not assessed as part of this Unit.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1 should be assessed with short answer questions — written/oral.

Outcome 2 should be assessed through practical exercises and the use of observation checklists for performance and product evidence. Use of photographs and video evidence may also be included. The candidate could complete a yard duties project over an extended period of time, culminating in a report for written and/or recorded evidence.

Outcome 3 may be assessed with written and/or recorded evidence (portfolio/logbook — evidence gathered over time through practical duties).

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Opportunities for developing Core Skills

As candidates are doing this Unit they will be developing aspects of the Core Skills in *Communication, Numeracy, Problem Solving* and *Working with Others*.

This Unit has the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skills Component Critical Thinking at SCQF level 4 embedded.	06/08/2012

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