



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Horse Care: Stable Routine (SCQF level 4)

Unit code: H1LR 10

Superclass: SH

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Version: 01

Summary

The purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidate to carry out stable duties under supervision, including mucking out, maintaining a suitable bed for the horse and keeping the stable yard tidy. The candidate will develop an understanding of daily stable routine practices. The candidate will understand current health and safety regulations and adopt safe working practices.

The Unit is suitable for candidates who are school leavers, adult returners, school pupils and for industry CPD. Candidates can progress from this Unit to FV76 11 *Horse Care: Stable Routine*.

This Unit is part of the National Progression Award in Horse Care (SCQF level 4) and can also be taken as a free standing Unit.

Outcomes

- 1 Identify common bedding materials and their advantages and disadvantages.
- 2 Muck out and replace bedding.
- 3 Assist in routine stable yard tasks to maintain welfare of horses and keep working area clean and tidy.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, candidates would benefit from completing FV5K 11 *Horse Care: Safe Horse Handling*.

General information (cont)

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Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 4: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 4*)

**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.*

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

Identify common bedding materials and their advantages and disadvantages.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify a variety of common drainage bedding materials.
- (b) Identify a variety of common absorbent bedding materials.
- (c) Describe advantages and disadvantages of various bedding materials.

Outcome 2

Muck out and replace bedding.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Describe different types of beds which can be provided for horses.
- (b) Describe health and safety practices for mucking out.
- (c) Select mucking out tools.
- (d) Secure horse safely according to instructions and under supervision.
- (e) Muck out and replace bedding adhering to health and safety requirements.
- (f) Clean drinking utensils and ensure that a clean supply of water is available.

Outcome 3

Assist in routine stable yard tasks to maintain welfare of horses and keep working area clean and tidy.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Maintain a safe and tidy working area.
- (b) Clean the yard area.
- (c) Maintain the muck heap.
- (d) Check horses' water and maintain supply.
- (e) Skip out a horse.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Oral/written and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidates have achieved all of the Outcomes and Performance Criteria. All practical activities must be carried out according to current Health and Safety regulations including the candidate wearing essential PPE.

Outcome 1

Written /oral evidence which must include:

- ◆ The identification of two common drainage bedding materials — rubber matting, straw.
- ◆ The identification of two common absorbent bedding materials from — paper, shavings, wood pellets or similar.
- ◆ A description of one advantage and one disadvantage of each of the following: two drainage bedding materials and two absorbent bedding materials.

Outcome 2

Performance and oral evidence must include:

- ◆ An explanation of the difference between a day bed, night bed and deep litter bed.
- ◆ A description of the health and safety practices which must be adopted when mucking out.
- ◆ Selection of the appropriate tools for mucking out — including wheelbarrow, fork, brush, shovel.
- ◆ Securing a horse safely in the appropriate area of the stable to facilitate mucking out, according to instructions and under supervision.
- ◆ The provision of clean drinking utensils and ensuring that a clean supply of water is available.
- ◆ Effective removal of soiled bedding and stacking clean bedding in stable.
- ◆ Replacement of bedding to a suitable depth for a night bed and topping up with fresh bedding if necessary. Finished night bed should be of sufficient depth to allow horse to lie down without injury to itself.
- ◆ Carrying out all tasks in accordance with current health and safety legislation, which includes wearing the necessary PPE.

These tasks should be carried out successfully on at least one occasion.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Outcome 3

Performance evidence must include:

- ◆ Maintaining a safe and tidy working area during the practical activities carried out in the stable, which includes cleaning and storage of all tools and equipment safely and effectively after use.
- ◆ Cleaning the yard area, this includes sweeping up the working area according to instructions given and to an acceptable industry standard.
- ◆ Maintaining muck heap which includes putting soiled bedding onto muck heap, keeping muck heap and surrounding areas tidy, according to instructions given.
- ◆ Check one horse's water bucket/supply for cleanliness and either top water up or replace if necessary.
- ◆ Skip out one horse safely, according to instructions given and an acceptable industry standard.

Candidates must be able to successfully perform these tasks on one occasion.

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 aligned to the following Lantra Sector Skills Council's National Occupational Standards (NOS):

Eq 103 Assist with cleaning the stables and yard ('This standard is about cleaning the stables and yard under the direction of a supervisor').

Most of the learning is practical and should take place in the stable yard. PPE must be worn according to instructions.

Candidates will be introduced to a variety of common bedding materials and develop knowledge of the advantages of disadvantages of each type. These bedding materials should include rubber matting, straw, paper, shavings and bed max or similar.

If the horse is to be left in the box when the stable is being mucked out, it must be a quiet horse. Safety aspects of mucking out should be emphasised — wheelbarrow handles facing out of the stable, not leaving tools in the stable unattended, care when using the fork that they do not stab their foot or injure the horse.

They should replace the bedding to a suitable depth for a night bed, and they should know the difference between a day bed, night bed and a deep litter bed.

Drinking utensils should be cleaned (buckets or automatic drinkers) and that a clean supply of water is available to the horse.

Water should be checked and replaced after mucking out. After all mucking out is completed the candidates should tidy up after themselves.

Safety aspects of this practice must be emphasised, ie not leaving things lying about to get stood on by horses or cause tripping accidents. Value of equipment should be indicated to candidates to give added importance to this practice. Reasons should be given to candidates for sweeping up of all working areas — appearance, pride in maintaining a tidy and safe working environment.

After mucking out, candidates should be encouraged to skip out horses' boxes whenever they notice a pile of droppings and they should participate in checking the horses' water at regular intervals, replacing as necessary.

The muck heap and surrounding area should be kept tidy as part of the yard routine. Every yard will have a different system for muck storage system therefore candidates should follow instructions from supervisor.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Delivery of Outcome 1 could take place in the classroom. A small investigative project could be given on the identification, advantages and disadvantages of common bedding materials, the use of IT and literature could be used to research this project. Tutor led discussions would also be useful and visits to various yards to see different types of bedding in use would be beneficial.

For Outcomes 2 and 3 most of the delivery should take place in a stable yard. Safe working practices and procedures must be adhered to at all times to avoid injury to the candidate and the horse. PPE must be worn and the tutor should draw attention to the importance of accident prevention by maintaining a tidy work environment, storing tools correctly and correct use of mucking out tools throughout. The approach to learning should be practical through tutor led demonstration followed by practice.

For all Outcomes, relevant video clips available on the internet could be used.

Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

Outcome 1 — Oral/written assessment

Outcome 2 — Practical

Outcome 3 — Practical

Outcome 2 and 3 could be combined into one practical assessment.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be used for assessing the knowledge elements of Learning Outcome 1 and part of Outcome 2. 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

In this Unit candidates will identify a variety of bedding materials, describe their advantages and disadvantages, select tools, muck out and maintain beds and surrounding working areas. As they are doing this Unit candidates will be developing aspects of the Core Skills in *Problem Solving, Communication, Information and Communications Technology 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.

Essential Skills

There will be opportunities to develop an understanding of sustainable practices in the stable yard in terms of recycling materials and safe working practices. Candidates should develop an understanding of the business practices/routines and costs associated with a working stable. In terms of employability the candidates will gain useful knowledge and skills in stable work which should enhance their opportunities for employment in this area.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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