



HC-L1-P05 - HANDLING HORSES

Assessment Criteria covered:

118 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1

120 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1

Task Overview

Learners will demonstrate safe and effective horse handling skills within the yard environment. This practical task focuses on approaching and handling horses safely, fitting and removing head collars correctly, leading horses safely, tying up using a quick release knot, maintaining awareness of health and safety procedures, and using appropriate PPE. Learners must work calmly, confidently, and safely around horses at all times while following instructions from staff.

Activities to be Completed

Learners must complete the following practical duties:

- Approach a horse safely
- Catch a horse calmly and correctly
- Put on and remove a head collar safely
- Lead a horse safely around the yard
- Maintain correct position while leading
- Tie a horse up safely using a quick release knot
- Untie and release the horse safely
- Demonstrate awareness of horse behaviour and body language
- Maintain a safe and tidy working environment
- Wear appropriate PPE during all activities

Use of Equipment

Learners must demonstrate safe and correct use of horse handling equipment, including:

- Head collars
- Lead ropes
- Tie rings or safe tying areas

Learners should:

- Check equipment for damage before use
- Use equipment for its intended purpose
- Handle ropes safely
- Store equipment correctly after use
- Report damaged equipment to staff

PPE Requirements

Learners must select and wear suitable PPE, including:

- Sturdy footwear or riding boots
- Gloves where appropriate
- Suitable yard clothing

Learners should explain why PPE is important when working around horses.

Manual Handling and Safe Working

Learners must demonstrate safe working practices when:

- Handling equipment
- Leading horses
- Moving around the yard environment



Learners should show:

- Calm and controlled movements
- Safe positioning around horses
- Awareness of personal space and escape routes
- Confidence without rushing or pulling

Health and Safety Requirements

Learners must:

- Work calmly and safely around horses
- Follow instructions from staff
- Maintain awareness of horse behaviour
- Keep work areas tidy and free from hazards
- Use safe tying methods
- Never wrap ropes around hands
- Maintain control of the horse at all times

Examples of hazards may include:

- Loose ropes
- Unsafe tying methods
- Sudden movements around horses
- Poorly fitted equipment
- Untidy yard areas
- Standing too close behind horses

Assessment Criteria Covered

Learners will demonstrate:

- Safe working practices within a yard environment
- Correct use of PPE
- Ability to approach and handle horses safely
- Correct fitting and removal of a head collar
- Safe leading techniques
- Safe tying and untying procedures
- Awareness of horse behaviour and hazards
- Safe use and storage of equipment

Evidence Required

Evidence may include:

- Assessor observation
- Photographs
- Witness statement
- Learner questioning
- Completed practical work