



Maintain and Work Safely with Equipment

Occupational
Standard Title

MAINTAIN, REPAIR, AND ADJUST SADDLERY AND LORINERY ITEMS

Overview

The Fitting industry is relatively sustainable, and rests on the work of highly skilled craftspeople and operatives.

This standard talks about maintaining, repairing, and adjusting saddlery items and maintaining lorinery. Both saddlery and lorinery may be recycled and re-purposed.

Equine Fitters should be trained and able to competently maintain tools and stock. They should be trained and able to competently maintain and adjust saddlery or have ready access to a trained saddler, leatherworker, or Qualified/Master Saddler/Harness/Bridle Maker to perform repair work or to make bespoke items.

You may also refer to:

- EFCTS04** Assess saddlery, lorinery and other equipment for faults and suitability
- EFCC01** Coach clients to monitor and maintain safe and correct fit of saddlery and lorinery



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Performance Criteria

You must be able to:

- P01 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of how tools, stock, and items of saddlery, or lorinery and their component parts are made
- P02 Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the inherent strengths and weaknesses of materials and methods used to produce saddlery and lorinery
- P03 Correctly select tools, supplies and methods to maintain items of saddlery and lorinery, as appropriate
- P04 Recognise signs of wear and tear and failure in all parts of saddlery and lorinery items, as appropriate
- P05 Make or have made repairs to saddlery items
- P06 Judge whether an item can be adjusted to fit the horse
- P07 Judge when an item cannot be repaired
- P08 Competently assess fit and adjust saddlery



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Knowledge and understanding

General maintenance, repair, and adjustment of saddlery items

You need to know and understand

K01	The range of materials used to produce saddlery items
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and recognise materials commonly used in saddlery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leather, linen, and wool ◦ Wood ◦ Synthetic and natural webbing ◦ Foams and plastics ◦ Wool and synthetic flocking ◦ Composite materials ◦ Metals • Understand and recognise other component parts of the item, and identify faults <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Screws or studs – for example, to attach panels or bridle parts ◦ Head or gullet plates – in adjustable saddles or harness • Understand and recognise when parts should be replaced or repaired
K02	Construction methods and condition
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How component parts may be attached <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Thread ◦ Screws, tacks, rivets, and studs ◦ Staples ◦ Glue ◦ Welding ◦ Velcro • How to assess the condition of stitching, riveting, welding, etc • Demonstrate knowledge and experience of common points and causes of wear or failure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Where joined or attached ◦ Where load is applied



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K03	When saddlery is not suitable for use due to reasons of safety and/or fit
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know how to test for safety and symmetry • Record and communicate findings • Make recommendations to cease use • Make recommendations to dispose of an item
K04	Good practice when inspecting, repairing, or adjusting saddlery items
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear appropriate clothing and protective equipment where necessary • How to dispose of waste safely and correctly
Maintain Saddlery	
You need to know and understand	
K05	How to maintain saddlery made from leather
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and recognise the type of leather used and whether it is suitable for the task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Part of the hide used • Understand and recognise the quality of leather used and whether it is suitable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Type of tannage and finishing ◦ Thickness of split • Understand and recognise different methods of assembling leather saddlery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Different types of thread ◦ Correct methods of stitching and lacing ◦ Condition of stitching • Understand how to use tools and supplies to clean and treat leather saddlery
K06	How to maintain saddlery made from synthetic materials
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and recognise different types of commonly used synthetic materials and whether they are suitable for the task



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Woven or non-woven synthetic textiles ○ Rubbers, plastics, and foams ○ Composite materials ○ Synthetic flock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understand and recognise the quality of commonly used synthetic materials and whether they are suitable for the task, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Breakdown of plastics or foams ● Understand how to use tools and supplies to clean and treat synthetic saddlery
K07	How to maintain saddlery made from natural, non-leather materials
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of new products, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Textiles ○ Composite leather alternatives ● Use experience and manufacturer guidelines to clean and maintain these materials
Maintain lorinery	
You need to know and understand	
K08	Understand the materials and methods used to manufacture lorinery items
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Types and properties of metal and alloy ● Other materials used in combination with metals ● Different production and construction methods ● Relative properties of materials used alongside metals ● Possible points and causes of failure
K09	Understand where items of lorinery may be used and their purpose
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lorinery includes all items that are made of metal and used on the horse above the foot and excluding veterinary equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bits and stirrups ○ Buckles and studs ○ Harness fittings ● Understand and recognise the effect that worn or faulty lorinery can have on horse comfort



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and recognise the effect that worn or faulty lornery can have on other materials
K10	How to keep lornery clean and in good condition	
Scope and range		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have tools and supplies to clean and treat lornery • Understand how to properly apply tools and supplies to clean and treat lornery • Wear appropriate clothing and protective equipment where necessary • How to dispose of waste safely and correctly
Repair saddlery items		
You need to know and understand		
K11	How to make thorough examination of saddlery items	
Scope and range		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand commonly used materials, design, and production methods • Assess wear and tear, and failure • Record and communicate findings • Identify a suitable means of repair, or • Make recommendations to cease use • Make recommendations to dispose of an item
K12	How to make repairs to saddlery items	
Scope and range		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select the correct tools and supplies • Demonstrate competence to carry out repairs • Understand and be able to explain the safety implications of the chosen method of repair • Agree the cost and duration of repair work with the client
K13	How to arrange for repairs to be made to saddlery items	
Scope and range		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have an established professional relationship with a person suitably qualified and prepared to make proper and safe repairs • Agree the price and duration of work



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- Agree the cost and duration of repair work with the fitting client

Adjust saddlery items

You need to know and understand

K14	When and how to make adjustments
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise and communicate when you lack the appropriate training, skills, tools, materials, or permissions to carry out adjustment • Know how to take and record measurements to gauge the need for and to guide adjustment • Understand the safe use of tools and materials to make the adjustment, for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Flocking and irons ◦ Cutting tools, thread, and needles ◦ Pumps or presses • Understand and recognise which component parts of a saddlery item may be adjusted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Panel filling: wool, air, foam, felt, ◦ Width and angle of the head and points of a saddle or harness – through mechanical means or interchangeable plates ◦ Length of straps or position of buckles • Know how to assess, measure, and record the result of adjustment for the working horse • When adjustment would not result in improved fit or safety • Know how to communicate and record your findings
K15	Communicate limits of adjustment
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be clear, and record, any limitation of repairs, for example, where they are temporary, or only intended to withstand specified use. • Communicate the responsibility of the client to examine and maintain saddlery and lornery



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