



Technical Services

Occupational
Standard Title

ASSESS SADDLERY, LORINERY, AND FITTED EQUIPMENT FOR SUITABILITY AND FAULTS

Overview

This standard covers how to assess if saddlery or lorinery is suitable for use, including identifying and evaluating faults.

Equine Fitters must be able to process the information gained prior to this stage of the appointment to make judgements on the suitability of available products. Having identified saddlery and/or lorinery that may fit and complement both horse and equestrian, including their current set-up, the fitter must understand and be able to carry out a systematic assessment of the equipment for faults. They must understand the process to put right certain faults and communicate and record where an item cannot be safely repaired or adjusted.

Equine Fitters must have excellent product knowledge – both the types and brands that they stock and those widely available in their market. They must possess the integrity to refer a client elsewhere if they do not stock, or cannot source, suitable products for the horse and equestrian.

You may also refer to:

- dEFCC01 Coach client to monitor and maintain safe and correct fit of saddlery and lorinery
- INSCS026 Monitor and solve customer service problems
- dEFCGS02 Set and communicate fees, prices, and terms of business
- dEFCE01 Perform maintenance, repair, or adjustment to saddlery items
- dEFCTS05 Select and fit the saddle, bit, bridle, harness, and/or other equipment



Technical Services

Performance Criteria

You must be able to:	P01	Present yourself in a professional manner
	P02	Work, and offer advice and guidance, within the scope of your training and experience
	P03	Comply with relevant health, safety, biosecurity, and welfare legislation and codes of conduct and practice
	P04	Listen attentively to the client and other relevant parties, check your understanding and results, and record relevant detail
	P05	Have and continuously develop product knowledge
	P06	Recognise distinct manufacture and fitting systems, demonstrate their features, judge whether suitable for the client and horse
	P07	Relate horse and equestrian conformation and requirements to potentially suitable types and design of product
	P08	Correctly specify work or a product to match the needs of your client and communicate that clearly to the relevant parties.
	P09	Understand how an item of saddlery or lornery is made
	P10	Perform and repeat tests and data collection procedures
	P09	Use and demonstrate tests of safety, symmetry and other faults that influence comfort, or those that constitute cosmetic damage
P10	Judge whether an item is safe to use, or is in good condition, and record and communicate findings	
P11	Act only in the best interest of your client, your profession, and horse welfare. These concerns must always come above profit or other personal or business gain.	



Technical Services

Knowledge and understanding

Review the needs of horse and human

You need to know and understand

K01	The purposes for which the saddlery or lorinery item is intended to be used
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of equestrians and their varying needs • Any caveats already provided around use • Rules and norms of relevant competitions
K02	How conformation and posture and fitness guides requirements of horse and equestrian
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features made necessary due to horse conformation or condition, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Dimensions, for example, seat, panel, or mouthpiece length ◦ Shape, for example of headpiece or tree ◦ If appropriate: how, where, and when pressure is loaded, such as with a bit, noseband, girth, or collar ◦ Presence, type, and volume of padding • Features made necessary due to human conformation or condition, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Preferred style of riding/driving ◦ Level of training and areas of strength or weakness ◦ Balance
K03	Special requirements of horse and equestrian
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability, training level, or training method • Aids or design features to accommodate physical needs or style of use • To accommodate changes over time • To accommodate planned changes in activity • Budget, when all other welfare needs are met
K04	That preferences of horse or equestrian may seem contrary to best professional advice and should be heeded unless doing so would compromise welfare
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Size or placement • Padding presence, type, and volume



Technical Services

- Design
- Habituation

Product knowledge

You need to know and understand

K05	Variants available in your market
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brands • Features, benefits, and limitations • Fitting systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How they might be adjusted, if appropriate ○ The training and tools necessary before gaining access to or working with stock ○ The extent to which the supplier or manufacturer can customise or make to measure • How to gain access to products and fittings • Accessories, features, benefits, and limitations • Prices, value, and supplier terms
K06	How brands and models are constructed
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonly used materials, and those used in the brands you work with • Means of operation and mechanics of item • Commonly used construction methods and materials
K07	Component parts and how they may be combined to suit horse and equestrian
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name and locate component parts • Understand, how parts interact, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bit cheek and mouthpiece ○ Tree length and shape with panel type and size ○ Tree head dimensions with angle of spring • Be able to apply, to demonstrate, and to explain this knowledge in practice
K08	Prices and any ongoing cost



Technical Services

- Scope and range
- Price of product
 - Price of fittings
 - Additional maintenance costs (over and above regular fitting appointments)
 - Discounts or deals
 - Price of customisations
 - Price of necessary accessories

Gauge suitability for horse and equestrian

You need to know and understand

K09	The features, benefits, and limitations of the range of products, including accessories, held by you
K10	The features, benefits, and limitations of the range of product, including accessories, widely used in the market

Identify and assess faults

You need to know and understand

K11	How to systematically check for faults
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- Scope and range
- Know and follow the appropriate procedures, as per your training, to identify faults
 - Know and demonstrate how to
 - check for broken or worn components or construction
 - assess symmetry
 - assess cosmetic damage
 - When and how to deduce the cause of damage
 - Ask the client for their explanation
 - Draw on experience of similar scenarios
 - For insurance or liability purposes
 - To arrange repair under warranty

K12	Material faults
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- Scope and range
- Understand commonly used materials and how to evaluate quality
 - Identify poor quality materials and understand likely consequences of use



Technical Services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise wear and tear • Recognise asymmetry caused during use
K13	Construction faults
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise and understand likely consequences of asymmetry or other production fault • Recognise different construction methods and how they may fail • Know and understand relevant standards, e.g., <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ British standards for tree making
K14	Cosmetic damage
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise and demonstrate when wear or fault is cosmetic and will not compromise safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Movement of dye or discolouration ◦ Surface scuffing or scratches ◦ Natural marks or scars in leather
K15	Where safety, comfort or wellbeing may be compromised
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the client and record your findings
K16	Whether a fault may be repaired, or part replaced
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether and how a repair may safely be carried out • Whether and how a part may safely be replaced • Whether and how asymmetry caused by use may be corrected
K18	Costs associated with repair or replacement
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who will carry out the work • What the cost will be to carry out the work • How long the work will take • Additional costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Delivery / postage costs ◦ Cost of further, necessary fitting assessment and adjustments • Availability of loan stock and terms of loan



Technical Services

Following procedure and operating within a system

You need to know and understand

K19	Which steps are taken and in what order, and why adhering to a system is important
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system and procedures underpinning your training and/or qualification • Why one step should precede or follow another • Why physical/digital data collection methods (forms) should reflect and guide the appointment
K20	The importance of consistent use of terminology
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective and efficient communication with paraprofessionals and those holding the same qualification or following the same training • Consistent record keeping • Higher confidence that information has been transmitted as intended – preventing misunderstanding

Communicate and record findings and recommendations

You need to know and understand

K21	How to communicate your findings and conclusions
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise findings and check understanding • Make recommendations and explain the associated lead-times and costs • Explain when you cannot help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Explore options and interim measures ◦ Refer the client to another Equine Fitter or human or equine professional ◦ Discuss and agree fees and charges
K22	Make clear and detailed records



Technical Services

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