



Technical Services

Occupational
Standard Title

SELECT AND FIT SADDLERY AND LORINERY

Overview

This Standard is about selecting saddlery and lorinery based on assessment of the horse and equestrian, information supplied by the client, measurements taken, and evaluation of findings.

This activity requires the Fitter to engage physically with the horse and know how to safely handle and work around them.

You must understand and demonstrate proper procedures to minimise risk and to safeguard the health and safety of yourself and others, and the welfare of the horse.

Fit should be assessed whilst the horse and equestrian perform their usual activities. The Equine Fitter should have available a range of accessories to complement and complete a good fit.

During the fitting process the Fitter should be able to communicate and record their findings and subsequent actions and be reasonably confident that the client and/or equestrian/s understand and that concerns are addressed.

All findings, recommendations and transactions must be recorded. All terms, conditions, and agreements required by law must be issued and signed by both parties.

You should also refer to:

- LANCS69 Monitor and maintain health, safety and security when working with horses
- dEFCC02 Discuss fitting approach and likely outcomes, and make referrals
- dEFCGS03 Maintain appropriate stock, tools, and supplier relationships
- LANEHC2 Handle and control equines



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Performance Criteria

You must be able to:

- P01 Communicate your findings and recommendations following collection of data and assessment of saddlery/lorinery, and horse and equestrian
- P02 Discuss preferences with the client
- P03 Select saddlery/lorinery and accessories that meet the needs of horse and client
- P04 Understand what constitutes a safe workspace and safe work methods to minimise harm to yourself, to others, and to the horse.
- P05 Work through a set process to assess fit in the static horse
- P06 Work through a set process to assess fit for the horse and client whilst performing usual activities
- P07 Be assertive in guiding the assessment process
- P08 Maintain open communication with the client during the process, receiving feedback and explaining your observations, actions, and recommendations.
- P09 Competently and confidently recognise signs of good or poor fit
- P10 Competently and confidently make correct adjustments before re-assessing fit for both horse and equestrian
- P11 Have access to an appropriately skilled professional to carry out this work where the necessary skills and experience to make required adjustments are lacking,
- P12 Ensure the client has access to appropriate accessories necessary for optimum fit for horse and equestrian
- P13 Make informed predictions on potential changes for horse and client following use of the fitted saddlery or lorinery over a period, and advise accordingly, book appointments, or make referrals
- P14 Keep detailed and legible records. Ensure these are understood by the client and signed by them at the close of the appointment
- P15 Act in accordance with legislation, regulation, codes of conduct, and proper health, safety, biosecurity, and horse welfare practice



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Knowledge and understanding

Review and evaluate information collected to inform selection

You need to know and understand

K01	Requirements of horse and equestrian
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and desired future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Conformation and physical development ◦ Health and fitness ◦ Type of activity/activities ◦ Level, intensity, and frequency of exercise • Plan of care provided by paraprofessionals including veterinary surgeons, musculoskeletal practitioners, coaches, dental, footcare and dietary professionals. • Expectation of interaction between saddlery, lorinery, horse, and equestrians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ How to safeguard horse wellbeing whilst accommodating rider or driver needs where this can be done safely and well ◦ Accommodation of more than one equestrian
K02	Other factors pertinent to saddlery or lorinery selection
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client budget or existing equipment • Client or horse preference • Capacity of an item to be adjusted • Lead-times – for repairs or order delivery • Client capacity and inclination to monitor fit
K03	When to halt the appointment
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitting is contra-indicated • Existing equipment is not suitable • You do not carry and cannot access suitable saddlery, lorinery and/or accessories necessary for good fit



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Select appropriate equipment

You need to know and understand

K04	How to relate measurements, information shared, and initial assessment to the range of products stocked or fitted
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which product features correlate with physical aspects of horse or human • Judge suitability of product features for each physical aspect or dimension • Understand how combined features of the product interact and influence fit
K05	Activities undertaken or planned and how active dimensions may vary from static measurements
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of activity or sport • Level of training and competition • How the shape or demands of horse or equestrian may change in action • Judge if a product can properly accommodate the working horse and equestrian whilst performing their usual activities
K06	The importance of correct accessories to complement fit
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which accessories may be used with an item of saddlery or lorinery • How they must be fitted in relation to other equipment, the horse, and equestrian.
K07	How to prepare equipment for fit assessment
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather suitable saddlery/lorinery with appropriate accessories • Ensure all necessary equipment is to hand
K08	Discuss findings with client to guide section
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurately communicate the relevance of observations and findings • Make recommendations and explain reasoning • Hear and respond constructively to feedback



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Make an initial assessment with the static horse

You need to know and understand

K09	How to manage a safe assessment environment
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the parameters of and ensure a safe area, • Avoid distractions, hazards, or causes of stress for the horse or equestrian • Check that the horse is clean • Use appropriate protective equipment • Explain the process to the client and/or handler • Ensure handler is suitably and safely attired using equipment approved to current standards where relevant • Be able to recognise behavioural signs of stress, distress, or discomfort, and monitor the horse
K10	How to safely tack up
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calmly, confidently, and respectfully interact with the horse • Correctly position item of saddlery/lorinery according to system or method taught • Calmly and gradually secure saddlery/lorinery
K11	Procedures, systems, or methods to assess fit
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make initial assessment as trained • Identify where adjustment may improve or enable satisfactory fit • Follow a sequence of possible adjustments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Why and when they should be made ◦ How they should be made ◦ Effect of adjustment on other aspects of fit • How to measure and record findings • How to explain findings to the client
K12	Eliminate unsuitable items or combinations
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate items which, on initial assessment fall short of good fit in any way



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- Assemble preferred options for assessment

Assess fit before starting to work the horse

You need to know and understand

K13 How to manage a safe ridden or driven assessment environment

Scope and range

- Understand the parameters of and ensure a safe area,
- Avoid distractions, hazards, or causes of stress for the horse or equestrian
- Explain the process to the equestrian and any helpers
- Ensure equestrian and any helpers are suitably and safely attired, using equipment approved to current standards where relevant
- Be able to recognise behavioural signs of stress, distress, or discomfort, and monitor the horse
- Explain your requirements clearly to the client

K14 How to guide the equestrian to safely mount to assess fit

Scope and range

- Take advice from the client on mounting preferences
 - If, how, and when to assist
- Check that all equipment is safely and comfortably secured prior to moving off
- Assess horse and equestrian comfort
 - Signs of horse discomfort or any impediment of free movement
 - Ability of equestrian to maintain correct position without undue effort
 - Effect of equestrian load or position on fit
- Does saddlery / lorinery remain correctly balanced and positioned when the reins are taken up?

K15 The importance of recognising when improvements may be made, halt the process and complete adjustments or amendments before recommencing

Assess fit in movement

You need to know and understand

K16 How to manage an assessment of the horse in work



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Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only make ridden/driven assessment in a suitable and safe environment • Welcome helpers and other professionals when requested <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Parent, helper, coach • Take up a position that allows safe and effective assessment from the side, in front of, and behind the horse in movement • Assess fit as horse progresses steadily in pace and level of movement difficulty, as per their usual exercise regime • Monitor horse and equestrian safety, comfort, behaviour, and well-being • Halt the assessment to make adjustments or for reasons of safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Bring the equestrian to the centre and ask them to calmly dismount ◦ Safely handle the horse if necessary • Understand how to behave appropriately and respectfully around the equestrian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Know when to ask permissions ◦ Understand safeguarding practice for young and vulnerable equestrians
K17	The features of healthy and balanced movement
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise correct and incorrect movement • Recognise signs on discomfort in horse or human • Describe incorrect movement clearly and accurately verbally and in writing • Recognise when incorrect movement may be caused or made worse by saddlery/lorinery choice or fit or the equestrian • Recognise how and when incorrect movement of horse or equestrian displaces saddlery/lorinery
K18	Feedback and preference
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain continuous and open communication with the client and or equestrian • Note or observe change in horse or equestrian • Request feedback on equestrian comfort and ability to perform, and their judgement on horse comfort, movement, and behaviour



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Identify and carry out adjustments

You need to know and understand

K19	Which aspects of fit can be changed, and how to safely and effectively make these changes
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which factors can affect the fit • What adjustments are possible • How to make them safely and effectively according to method or system used
K20	How accessories can influence or affect fit
K21	The limits and scope of good fit
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise underlying issues outside the influence of the fitter that may cause imbalance or discomfort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Horse or client weakness or pain ◦ Compensatory movement or posture ◦ Ability level or poor technique • Explain to the client when it is not possible to achieve positive change in horse or equestrian movement, comfort, or confidence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Record your findings ◦ Advise accordingly within the scope of your role, training, and experience ◦ Make referrals
K22	How adjustments may affect the horse and client
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under which circumstances and for what period adjustments are expected to be effective in supporting good fit • When and how fit, balance and position should be checked by the client or equestrian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ How to recognise change and what actions to take – call the Fitter, make adjustment as instructed, etc • Sporting rules
K23	Re-assess fit following adjustment
K24	Make a final determination that the saddlery/lorinery fitted is comfortable, secure, and safe for horse and equestrian



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Make final recommendation

You need to know and understand

K25	The full process set down by your method or system and that it has been followed and documented
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full assessment has been carried out • Needs and preferences of horse and equestrian have been taken into consideration
K26	Clearly explain your final findings and recommendations
Scope and range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set out how good fit has been achieved • Note recommendations, advice, and findings • Complete records as per your method/system, code of conduct and practice, supplier requirements, legal requirements • Raise invoice and take or arrange payment for services and products supplied. • Encourage post-appointment feedback • Arrange next appointment



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