

SCHEDULE
THE RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACTS 1964 AND 1970
RIDING ESTABLISHMENT CONDITIONS

General Requirements

- 1 The number of horses accommodated at the establishment at any one time must not exceed * .
- 2 The Licence Holder must hold public liability insurance for personal injury to persons who hire out any horse at the establishment. The liability insurance cover should cover the operator for claims to a minimum of £2 million.
- 3 Licence holders must keep themselves up to date with Health and Safety requirements.

Animal Health Requirements

- 4 Horses must be maintained in good health, and in all respects physically fit and, in the case of a horse kept for the purpose of its being let out on hire for riding or a horse kept for the purpose of its being used in providing instructions in riding, the horse must be suitable for the purpose for which it is kept.
- 5 No horse aged three years or under nor any mare heavy with foal nor any mare within three months after foaling may be let out on hire for riding or used, in return for payment, for instruction in or demonstrating riding.
- 6 The feet of all animals must be properly trimmed and, if shod, their shoes must be properly fitted and in good condition.
- 7 A horse found on inspection on the premises by an authorised officer to be in need of veterinary attention must not be returned to work until the holder of the Licence has obtained at his own expense and has lodged with the Local Authority a veterinary certificate that the horse is fit for work.
- 8 In the case of horses maintained at grass there must be available for them at all times during which they are so maintained adequate pasture, shelter, water and supplementary feeds must be provided as and when required.
- 9 Horses must be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and (except in the case of horses maintained at grass, so long as they are so maintained) bedding material, and must be adequately exercised, groomed and rested and visited at suitable intervals.
- 10 All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent and control the spread among horses of infectious or contagious diseases and veterinary first aid equipment and medicines must be provided and maintained in the premises.
- 11 A register must be kept by the Licence Holder of all horses in his possession aged three years and under usually kept on the premises. This Register be available for inspection by an authorised office at all reasonable times.

Rider Safety Requirements

- 12 Any riding equipment supplied for a horse let out on hire must be free from visible defect which is likely to cause suffering to the horse or accident to the rider.
- 13 No horse may be let out on hire for riding or used for providing instruction in riding without supervision by a suitably qualified (either by experience, qualification or both) person of the age of 16 years or over.

The instructor/supervisor : student ratio needs to be assessed prior to commencing a ride. This ratio will depend upon:

- a) the experience and qualifications of the instructors;
- b) the experience and ability of the student(s);
- c) the temperament and experience of the horse; and
- d) the type of lesson/ride to be undertaken.

Where treks or hacks take place at the Establishment a minimum of 2 suitably qualified supervisors should be provided. If the Operator provides the trek/hack with a mobile phone the number of supervisors may be reduced to one, notwithstanding the above.

All veterinary drugs and medicines must be kept in a locked cupboard. Persons administering drugs must be adequately trained.

- 14 The Licence Holder must provide suitably fitting, good condition riding hats for all riders that attend the establishment. These riding hats must conform to and be labelled as being manufactured in accordance with BS PAS 015/1998 (or equivalent), as recommended by the British Horse Society.

Notwithstanding the obligation to provide hats at the establishment, the Licence holder may allow riders to wear their own hats if it is in good condition and conforms to the above standards (or equivalent).

The licence holder must ensure that both staff and riders wear these hats at all times whilst on a ride.

- 15 The Licence Holder must ensure that both staff and riders wear appropriate safety clothing suitable for the conditions of the ride.

Footwear should be preferably riding boots but strong shoes with heels up to 1 inch would be acceptable. Wellington boots, sandals, trainers and deep treaded shoes/boots should be avoided.

Bright coloured/luminous clothing should be worn by a proportion of riders whilst riding on public highways.

- 16 Prior to hiring horses out the Licence Holder must ensure that each rider has been assessed for their competence. Once the assessment has been completed then the rider should be hired an appropriate horse according to their ability and should only be taken on types of rides which match the rider's ability.

- 17 The carrying on of the business of a Riding Establishment shall at no time be left in charge of any person under 16 years of age. This person shall be available at the Establishment at all times.

At establishments which undertake treks and hacks the licence holder must ensure that the supervisors notify the person in charge of the Establishment of the particular route to be taken prior to commencing the ride. A record/log book should be maintained by the Licence Holder at the establishment.

- 18 There must be provided at the Establishment at least one qualified First Aider. Where treks or hacks take place supervisors will need to be trained in emergency

First Aid.

A suitably equipped First Aid Box shall be kept at the Riding Establishment. A suitable notice indicating the whereabouts of this box must be displayed.

An accident book recording all injuries to both staff and riders must also be provided.

Structural Requirements

- 19 The construction of the riding establishments must be substantial, adequate to contain the animals, and provided with warmth and shelter in clean and hygienic conditions. There must be convenient and safe access to the stalls and boxes for both horses and handlers. Stalls must be large enough to allow the animal to lie down and get up without risk of injury. Boxes must be large enough to allow the animal to turn round.
- 20 Yards must provide enough space for every animal kept there and be of such construction as to avoid injury to horse, staff and riders.
- 21 Ventilation must provide fresh air without draughts.
- 22 Drainage must be adequate to carry away liquid voided by the horses and keep the standings dry.
- 23 There must be provisions for storage and disposal of manure and spoiled straw.
- 24 Adequate accommodation must be provided for forage, bedding, stable equipment and saddlery. Forage must be stored in suitable rodent proof containers.
- 25 Lighting must be adequate to render the use of artificial light unnecessary in daylight. Where artificial light is provided all lighting and cabling should be positioned out of the reach of the horses.
- 26 Electrical systems at the Riding Establishment are required to be in accordance with the Institute of Electrical Engineers Wiring Regulations for the Electrical Equipment of Buildings (Safety Standards) 1985. Licence holders must provide for inspection an electrical safety certificate valid for 5 years stating the establishment's compliance with the aforementioned.

Suitable and properly maintained residual current devices should be installed where clippers, grooming machines and pressure washers are used.

External electrical sockets should have suitable waterproof covers.

Fire Safety Requirements

- 27 The licence holder must ensure that appropriate steps will be taken for the protection and extrication of horses in case of fire and in particular, that the name, address and telephone number of the licence holder, or some other responsible person are kept displayed in a prominent position at the outside of the premises and that instructions as to action to be taken in the event of fire, with particular regard to the extrication of horses, are kept displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the premises.

The Licence Holder must provide suitable fire fighting equipment as requested by the Fire Officer and suitable 'no smoking' and 'fire point' signs shall be displayed at the establishment.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974

- 28 A full risk assessment of all activities of the stables should be carried out and it is recommended that these should be in a written format. This is a requirement of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, recently updated by the Young Persons Regulations 1997. These regulations require specific attention to be paid to any activity involving young persons under the age of 18; and when below minimum school leavers' age, the assessment should be made available to parents.