



NPTC
Registered Charity No. 1096429

STONELEIGH PARK, WARWICKSHIRE CV8 2LG
Tel: 024 7685 7300 Fax: 024 7669 6128
Email: information@nptc.org.uk

**LEVEL 3
CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE
IN
CATTLE FOOT TRIMMING**

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

© NPTC 2006

CATTLE FOOT TRIMMING - ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE APRIL 2006
LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE IN CATTLE FOOT TRIMMING

Candidate Information

Introduction

The scheme will be administered by NPTC.

NPTC will:

- Publish
 - scheme regulations
 - assessment schedule
 - assessment material
- Approve centres to co-ordinate and administer the scheme
- Set standards for the training of Verifiers and Assessors
- Recruit, train and deploy Verifiers
- Manage verification
- Issue certificates to successful Candidates

The Certificate of Competence

Certificates of competence will be awarded to Candidates who achieve the required level of competence in the Units to which their Certificate relates.

Instruction

It is not a legal requirement to undergo training at the present time but potential Candidates are strongly advised to ensure that they are up to the standards that will be expected of them when they are assessed. However, NPTC does not prescribe what course should be attended.

NPTC does **not** hold a register of instructors; however instruction will normally be available from recognised training providers and/or centres of further or higher education active in the areas covered by this certificate. Further information on training may be obtained from the local Assessment Centre.

Access to Assessment

Assessment Centres will be responsible for arranging assessment on behalf of a Candidate. Assessment may only be carried out by an Assessor approved by NPTC for that scheme. Under no circumstances can either instructors involved in the preparation of candidates, or the candidates work place supervisors, or anyone else who might have a vested interest in the outcome, carry out the assessment.

Resources needed for the assessment should include suitable cattle for trimming, handling facilities, undercover conditions, and access to electrics.

The minimum age limit for Candidates taking certificates of competence is 18 years. There is no upper age limit.

Assessment

Assessment is a process by which it is confirmed that the Candidate is competent in the Units within the award to which the assessment relates. It is a process of collating evidence about his/her capabilities and judging whether that evidence is sufficient to attribute competence.

The candidate must be registered through an NPTC approved Assessment Centre for this qualification, prior to assessment.

The result of the assessment will be recorded on the assessment report form.

The schedule of assessment contains the assessment criteria relating to:

- Observation of practical performance
- Assessment of knowledge and understanding

Performance Evaluation

At the Assessment the Assessor will evaluate each activity against the following criteria:

- 4 = Exceeds the requirements of the assessment criteria for both the practical performance and the underpinning knowledge, with no 'critical' faults. Delivering a safe, polished, efficient, unsupervised performance of the practical skill.
- 3 = Satisfies the requirements of the assessment criteria for both the practical performance and the underpinning knowledge, with no 'critical' faults. Candidate has sufficient fluency to perform the task safely, unaided and unsupervised.
- 2 = Does not fully satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria. Candidate required some support or excessive time to perform the task satisfactorily and/or potentially causes a "critical fault". Weaknesses in performance exceed strengths.
- 1 = Does not satisfy the requirements of the assessment criteria. Candidate is unable to demonstrate sufficient skill or underpinning knowledge and weaknesses in performance substantially exceed strengths and/or causes a "critical fault".

A list of registered Assessment Centres is available from NPTC (www.nptc.org.uk)

CATTLE FOOT TRIMMING - ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE APRIL 2006

Verification

Verification is a process of monitoring assessment; it is an essential check to confirm that the assessment procedures are being carried out in the way that NPTC has laid down. The overall aim of verification is to establish a system of quality assurance that is acceptable in terms of both credibility and cost effectiveness.

Approved Assessors will be subject to a visit by the Verifier at a time when assessments are being undertaken.

A selection of assessment reports completed by the Assessor will be evaluated by an NPTC approved Verifier.

Compliance with the verification requirements will be a pre-requisite of Assessors remaining on NPTC's list of approved assessors.

Complaints and Appeals

NPTC and its Assessment Centres have a formal Complaints and Appeals procedure. In the event of any dissatisfaction with the arrangements and conditions of assessment, the candidate should first contact the Assessment Centre through whom the assessment was arranged and submit the complaint in writing.

For further information on NPTC's Equal Opportunities Policy and Complaints and Appeals Procedures, please refer to www.nptc.org.uk

Learning Outcomes

The candidate will be able to demonstrate knowledge of, or ability to:

- Equipment and materials required for cattle foot trimming
- Effective animal preparation and foot trimming
- Identification of lesions, completion of accurate records and the need for veterinary intervention
- Preparation and application of claw block
- Foot disorders caused by disease or nutrition
- Housing and disease spread within cattle
- Knowledge of relevant legislation

Guidance Notes for Candidates and Assessors

The assessment is divided into **two** compulsory units:

- Unit 1: Practical Foot Trimming of Cattle
- Unit 2: Principles of Cattle Foot Trimming

Candidates must achieve all Assessment Activities in all units.

Guidelines for the Practical Assessment

The candidate is required to trim four cows. All four feet must be trimmed on at least one cow. The back feet only can be trimmed on three cows unless the front feet require trimming.

The candidate may choose to use knives and/ or an electric rasp for trimming. However, at least one cow should be trimmed using knives only. If an electric rasp is used, safety goggles must be worn at all times and rasps should be operated according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Safe Practice

Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment must be worn at all times.

Appropriate steps should be taken to ensure bio-security at all times

All equipment must be operated in such a way that the Candidate, Assessor, other persons, animals or other equipment are not endangered.

If these conditions are not observed this will result in the Candidate not meeting the required standard.

Validation of Equipment

Any appropriate item(s) of livestock and clinical equipment complying with legal and animal welfare requirements is acceptable for the assessment, provided it is suitable for **all** assessment activities to be carried out.

Additional Information

May be sought from the relevant manufacturer's instruction book, operators' manual, product label or any other appropriate training or safety publication.

Animal Welfare

Throughout this assessment a high emphasis is placed on animal welfare, which will underpin the whole of this qualification.

The "Five Freedoms" and their interpretation by the RSPCA appear at the back of this schedule, (Appendix 1).

During their assessment, candidates are reminded that they should carry out all the activities to comply with the animal welfare codes.

CATTLE FOOT TRIMMING - ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE APRIL 2006

UNIT 1 Practical Foot Trimming of Cattle	
1. Demonstrate knowledge of equipment and materials required for foot trimming	<p>Equipment required for foot trimming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apron - Wellington boots - Overalls - Wrist guards - Gloves - Knives - Clippers - Rasp - Electric grinder (optional) - Electric cables (optional) - Crush - Disinfectant - Report sheets - Hoof blocks - Any other relevant equipment
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the condition of equipment required for foot trimming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In good working order - Clean - Sharp - Correct angle, blade/bow - Disinfection and biosecurity (hygiene, cleanliness) routine - Test electrical supply - Safe routing of cables
3. Prepare animal for trimming	<p>For all cows, candidates must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess and minimise risks - Have a clear crush/work area - Maintain quiet, firm control - Stress free/comfortable environment - Be aware of animal behaviour and condition of health - Correct use of restraint
4. Carry out foot trimming procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5-step method <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1 – inner claw on hind feet, correct length and level • Step 2 – match outer claw to inner claw • Step 3 – modelling • Step 4 – height difference if required • Step 5 – removal of loose horn • Awareness of dew claws <p>Finish should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce functional balanced foot - improve locomotion - alleviate pain
5. Identify lesion problems correctly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assessment of foot conformation - identify possible causes of lesions - identify appropriate trimming procedures - recognise need for veterinary intervention <p>Complete report sheets after trimming</p> <p>Report sheets completed containing the following records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and identity of animals trimmed • Date trimmed • Findings/ lesions identified • Procedure • Other comments eg. Future visits, recommendation of vet advice <p>Demonstrate knowledge of the ways in which records should be used by the farmer</p> <p>Ways that records should be used by the farmer include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To satisfy Farm assurance recording requirements ○ To assess main causes of lameness on farms ○ To inform his/her vet of cows trimmed and findings ○ To identify problem cows ○ To identify cows for further treatment.

CATTLE FOOT TRIMMING - ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE APRIL 2006

UNIT 2 Principles of Cattle Foot Trimming	
<p>7. Demonstrate knowledge of diseases</p>	<p>Definition of the term zoonoses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disease of animals transmissible to humans <p>Examples of recognised zoonoses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leptospirosis - Brucellosis - Ringworm - Tuberculosis - Salmonella - E.coli - Cryptosporidia <p>Examples of diseases that can potentially be passed from farm to farm or cow to cow by the trimmer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salmonella - Digital dermatitis - Foot and mouth disease - Ringworm - Foul of the foot - Johnes disease - BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea) - Leptospirosis - IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis, 'Cow flu')
<p>8 Demonstrate knowledge of measures to reduce risks of spreading disease or contracting a zoonotic disease</p>	<p>Measures to reduce risks of spreading diseases or contracting a zoonotic disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal hygiene- washing hands before eating/ smoking - Washing and disinfecting crush and equipment thoroughly between farms (E.g. overalls, Wellingtons, gloves etc) - Keeping area around the crush scraped free of faeces during trimming - Use of suitable disinfectant
<p>9 Demonstrate knowledge of foot disorders caused by disease or nutrition</p>	<p>Lesions of the foot to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital dermatitis • Interdigital dermatitis • Interdigital growth • Foul of the foot • Heel horn erosion (slurry heel) • Corium Dysfunction • Toe necrosis • Sole ulcer • White line disease <p>Name possible causes of lesions of the foot</p> <p>Signs that indicate infection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lameness ○ Heat ○ Swelling ○ Redness <p>Methods of control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footbath • Topical spraying of individual animals • Hygienic housing • Routine trimming <p>Nutritional effects on horn growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate fibre in diet • Excess starch in diet, promoting corium dysfunction • Low rumen pH (Acidosis)
<p>10. Demonstrate knowledge of housing/ environment</p>	<p>Identify good/poor housing conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cubicle size/comfort - Ventilation - Under-foot conditions (bedding, cow tracks, hard surfaces) - Lighting - Access to food and water

CATTLE FOOT TRIMMING - ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE APRIL 2006

<p>11. Demonstrate knowledge of what cattle foot trimmers can and cannot legally do in the course of their work, in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966</p>	<p>Trimmers to be aware of what they can and cannot legally do in the course of their work, in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966</p> <p>Trimmers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Trim a cow's foot to relieve the area around a sole ulcer- Apply a block to alleviate weight bearing of a diseased foot- Inject the farmer's antibiotic to treat a simple case of foul- Spray a digital dermatitis lesion with the farmer's own topical antibiotic- Record lesions, such as sole ulcer, foul of the foot, on record sheets. <p>Vet only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Advise the farmer which antibiotic to use to treat a simple case of foul- Inject antibiotic into the foot- Spray a digital dermatitis lesion with his/her own topical antibiotic.- Advise on using antibiotic foot baths- Inject local anaesthetic into the foot or leg in order to pare an infected sole ulcer
--	---

CATTLE FOOT TRIMMING - ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE APRIL 2006

Appendix 1

The Five Freedoms

The 'Five Freedoms' as defined by the Farm Animal Welfare Council, define ideal states, but provide a comprehensive framework for animal welfare on farm, in transit and at the place of slaughter.

They are:

- **Freedom from fear and distress**
- **Freedom from pain, injury and disease**
- **Freedom from hunger and thirst**
- **Freedom from discomfort**
- **Freedom to express normal behaviour**

What the Five Freedoms mean:-

FREEDOM from fear and distress by providing conditions and care, whether on farm, in transit or at the abattoir, which avoid mental suffering. For instance, staff involved in handling livestock need to be aware of the welfare problems associated with animal handling and understand the behaviour characteristics and likely reactions of the species in question, so that potentially stressful events such as loading/unloading and moving animals can be carried out quietly and calmly.

FREEDOM from pain, injury and disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment. The design of accommodation for farm animals should be such that a high or regular occurrence of injury and disease as the consequence of poorly designed facilities is avoided. Stock-keepers should be sufficiently skilled and alert to detect incidents of injury and disease early, to act appropriately to reduce or avoid them in future.

FREEDOM from hunger and thirst by providing ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour. Feed must be satisfying, appropriate for the species/age of animal and safe. Other measures (such as minimising bullying and competition at feed time by ensuring appropriate placement and numbers of feeders/drinkers) should also be employed to achieve this 'freedom'.

FREEDOM from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area. The provision of a safe, clean, dry bedded lying area helps to achieve this and space allowances should ensure that all animals have adequate space to lie comfortably, groom themselves, get up and get down easily without injuring themselves or others. The design of flooring and unbedded areas along with drainage and manure handling should be such that they do not result in injuries or diseases of the feet.

FREEDOM to express normal behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals' own kind. The proven needs of different species of animals must be met. For example, the provision of straw bedding or other material for manipulation for pigs, can not only provide a comfortable lying place, but also enriches a potentially barren environment by providing an opportunity for pigs to satisfy their strong instinct for exploration, rooting behaviour and play. Allowing expression of natural behaviour helps to reduce the occurrence of unnatural, potentially harmful behaviours and improves mental wellbeing.