

2018 Field Test Standard

Explanation:

This standard replaces a part of current (2018) Core Standard A32. Along with FTS 2, 3, 4 below, it creates a set of standards addressing helmet use for multiple EAAT activities. It separates the helmet requirement for volunteers and personnel and adds acceptance of international equivalent helmets. All of these standards (FTS 1-4) must be approved by vote before any will replace current (2014) Core Standards A32 and A33. If it passes, it will be placed in the Core Administrative Section of the Standards Manual.

FTS1:

Is there a written record for each equine that documents the results of an annual evaluation of individual weight-carrying and workload limitations?

Yes No

Interpretation: During all EAAT, equines are subjected to stresses that can lead to short-and long-term negative effects on the body and mind of the equine. Science has not yet delivered a formula to calculate the weight-carrying or workload capabilities of horses. Therefore, regular evaluation and re-evaluation of the following complex variables should be used to determine the weight-carrying and workload limitations for each equine at least annually.

Some weight-carrying and workload variables that centers may consider are as follows:

- Equine age, weight, breed, body condition, fitness, balance, health and soundness
- Equine conformation to include the top line, length of back, strength and width of loin, bone density (measured by the circumference of the cannon bone just below the knee)
- Size, shape, condition and angle of the hooves
- Participant weight, height, body proportions, balance, fitness and riding skills as well as behavioral issues and safety concerns
- Weight and proper fit of the saddle and other equipment
- Terrain and footing in the working environment
- Duration and frequency of working sessions, as the frequency with which an equine is subjected to maximum weight carrying and/or workload should be carefully monitored
- Nature and pace of work, repetitive or varied, radius of turns, degree of incline and regularity of footing when equine is subject to maximum weight-carrying capacity
- Break intervals between working sessions. (A break interval is a time without tack or other equipment where the equine is not tied but allowed to move freely and has access to water. A working session is a period of continuous service where the equine is under the control of and interacting with humans.)
- Temperature and/or weather conditions
- Seasonal impact on the equines' workload and weight-carrying capabilities and limitations
- Equine responses toward work as demonstrated by behaviors and/or body language

Compliance Demonstration: Visitor observation of the WRITTEN record of individual weight carrying and workload limitations for each equine as determined by annual evaluations.

