Preparing for the Assessment of Trainee CD Coaches, New Equines, Harness and Carriages.

RDA Carriage Driving
It's what you can do that counts

Guidelines for Group Organisers

- Assessments can be stressful occasions – both for candidates and for Group Organisers uncertain of what is required.
- The purpose of these guidelines is to reduce that stress by setting out clearly the facilities and information that will be required either before or during the assessment.
- All assessments must be arranged by the Group Organiser through their Regional Carriage Driving Representative, who will appoint the assessor.
- Group members should appreciate that this is an assessment, not a teaching session, and additional people present can be stressful for the candidate.
- Other members of the Group should therefore stay away from the assessment area.

Trainee CD Coach

- This assessment is obligatory for all RDA CD Coaches.
- There is a minimum age of 18 years old to be assessed for becoming an RDA CD Coach. However, 16 and 17 year olds can be green-carded and commence their training from their 16th birthday.
- Candidates should drive the horse/pony in the Group to which they are attached.
- A head-holder and 2nd assistant should be available and will remain silent and stationary unless directed by the Trainee Coach. At all times the Trainee Coach is in charge of the turnout and helpers.
- An RDA Trainee Coach should have appropriate paperwork: Trainee Log book, Disclosure Check for your region of the UK, Safeguarding Certificate, and First Aid Certificate if applicable.
- Candidates should be thoroughly familiar with the Syllabus and ideally should have had some formal instruction covering the key areas of: - Responsibilities of the CD Coach, Driving Skills and Stable Management.
- A level and secure field/paddock/area with 3 pairs of cones set out (may be traffic cones) is required if possible.
- A head-holder and 2nd assistant should be available and will remain silent and stationary unless directed by the Trainee Coach. At all times the Trainee Coach is in charge of the turnout and helpers.
- The pony should not be harnessed up prior to the assessment, as harnessing up forms part of the assessment.
- On completion of the assessment, the candidate will be told the result. Should the required level not be reached, the assessor will give a clear explanation of the reasons and recommend a course of action for further development.
- The Group Organiser will be sent a copy of the Report, as will the Regional Driving Representative.

Combination of New Equine, Harness and Carriage.

- The equine, harness and carriage must comply with the criteria set out in the RDA Safety Code.

For the assessment the following is required:-

- A clean and well-presented equine.
- Clean and well-maintained harness and carriage.
- The horse passport
- A level and secure field/paddock/area with 3 pairs of cones set out (may be traffic cones).
- The harness & carriage that will normally be used and with which the horse will be assessed.

- The maintenance record of the carriage is to be available.
- If applicable, the serial number of the carriage is to be noted.
- An RDA Coach who usually drives the equine, with at least 1 competent assistant.
- The equine's owner if different from the above.
- A second driving turnout which will enable the equine's reaction to working in company to be assessed. If another turnout is not available then the report will be qualified accordingly. Subsequently, if the horse is to be driven in company either with another turnout in the Group, or at another RDA approved event, then a re-assessment will be required.
- On completion of the assessment, the Group Organiser will be told the result.
- Should any minor adjustments to the harness or carriage be recommended, these will be discussed with the Group Organiser and recorded on the report with a note regarding the responsibility for subsequent checking.

Venue

Group organisers are reminded that all locations where RDA activities, including assessments, take place are subject to a written Risk Assessment being carried out, guidance on which is found on the following pages:-

www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/health-safety
www.myrda.org.uk/runningyourgroup/carriage-driving

Administration

- When the assessment is being arranged, assessors would appreciate clear directions to the location, including road numbers and/or a Post Code for satnavs, together with a contact mobile phone number for the day of the assessment.
- When the assessment is as the request of the Group, travel expenses (currently 45p/mile) should be paid to the assessor(s) on the day.
- RDA Assessors have a wide range and depth of knowledge not only of RDA work but often across the whole carriage driving spectrum. Outside the formality of the specific assessment, the assessors are very willing to share this experience with Groups and to address any issues that Group Organisers or individuals may raise.