Higher Standards

For each activity, a number of higher standards have been agreed. Meeting the higher standards is optional but is the only way to gain a higher star rating. The higher standards are classified in to two types: required and optional and are outlined in the relevant guidance documents for the activity in question. To qualify as meeting the higher standards, the business needs to achieve all of the required higher standards as well as a minimum of 50% of the optional higher standards. During an inspection, the inspector should assess whether or not the business meets the required number of higher standards

Required

General Conditions

5.8 - There must be an option for a permanent individual turn out paddock/pen to allow horses their own area for grazing/turnout if required owing to ill-health or domination by other horses.

5.9 - Horses must be inspected at least once during the out of hours period (e.g. 1800- 0800).

7.1 - All horses must have a structured management and care programme to include their exercise needs with suitable alternatives for those unable to exercise, such as additional grooming, physiotherapy etc.

Specific Conditions

6.2 - Each horse will have its own specific care plan detailing age and any health related conditions.

6.3 - Records must evidence individual monitoring and training plans for horses in connection with individual training needs to complement their use within a riding school. This must be accompanied with evidence of regular and effective checks with saddler for comfort and fit.

7.1 - Initial assessments must be undertaken for new riders and details of assessment recorded.

7.1 - Documented risk assessment must be available for all such equipment, for example horse clippers, horse walker, yard blowers, arena levelling equipment and any additional therapy based machines or equipment.

7.1 - Documented risk assessment must be available for activities, including PPE requirements that include appropriateness of PPE relative to differing tasks and situations.

Optional

General Conditions

5.1 - Horses will not be in reach of each other to bite and there will be room to work around them. Horses will be in view of each other, unless kept singly for management reasons, such as isolation or stallion management purposes.

5.7 - There must be a separate secure, clean and well-lit veterinary inspection area that enables safe access to allow inspection of a horse.

6.3 - There must be separate well lit, lockable, purpose built feed room with water

available and additional storage for supplements.

10.4 - A competent person must be on site at all times.

Specific Conditions

5.3 - Independent specialist nutritional advice must be sought as appropriate for individual horses and documented alongside the weekly body condition scoring. Records must evidence individual health plans and monitoring for horses in connection with dietary requirements. There must be legible and up to date feed chart on display that informs correct feeding amounts for individual horses.