

# **THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FARRIERS ASSOCIATIONS**

## **MASTER EUROFARRIER STANDARDS**

The qualification Master Eurofarrier is awarded by the European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA) to farriers who have successfully completed further training and professional work experience, and who have successfully passed a higher level examination accredited by EFFA. The qualification recognises progression from the basic standards required to practise as a self-employed farrier in the farrier's own country.

Master Eurofarriers should be able to:

- Train an apprentice up to the level of Certified Eurofarrier
- Manage employees
- Perform remedial farriery using a variety of techniques
- Communicate with owners and handlers regarding procedures, prognosis and costs
- Confer with veterinarians on orthopaedic and hoof related cases, including assessment of radiographs

Candidates are required to satisfy certain pre-entry experience criteria, to submit examples of their work before taking the examination, and then to complete successfully written, oral and practical tests of their knowledge and level of skill.

### **1 Pre-Entry Criteria**

To be eligible to enter a programme leading to the award of Master Eurofarrier, candidates must:

- Have completed the training and examination leading to recognition as a Certified Eurofarrier (CEF) or, in countries not accredited under the CEF programme, have completed training and examination sufficient to qualify them to practise farriery in their own country
- Ensure that if they are planning to undertake training or to sit the examination outside their own country, they are entitled to practise farriery in the other country. Rules for EU citizens are given in Directive 2005/36/EC Chapter II, Article 16. The general requirement is that the farrier must have practised farriery as either a student or a self-employed farrier for at least 6 years in the last ten years

### **2 Training Programme and Experience**

Candidates wishing to take the examination are expected to:

- Have undertaken further theoretical and practical training

- Have developed their forging skills
- Have carried out wide-ranging remedial farriery under the guidance of other remedial farriers and veterinarians
- Have attended a series of Continuing Professional Development lectures and demonstrations

## 2 Pre-Examination Evidence

Before candidates sit an examination to qualify as a Master Eurofarrier, they must produce:

- Ten specimen shoes made by themselves from the list given at Annex B
- A fully documented case study of remedial treatment carried out on a horse under their care. Suitable procedures for consideration are given at Annex C
- Evidence that they have completed at least 10 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) each year for at least the last 2 years

## 3 Theory

Candidates will be expected to complete a written theory paper. This will assess the candidate's knowledge of:

### 3.1 Anatomy and Physiology

The limb up to and including the carpus/tarsus in detail, and a broad understanding of higher structures. Candidates should understand the structure, function and composition of:

Bone	Nerves	Skin
Muscle	Lymphatics	Synovial membranes and fluid
Joints	Cartilage	The hoof and all its associated structures,
Tendons	Ligaments	particularly the hoof wall and laminae
Blood	Bursae	

### 3.2 Biomechanics

- Correct balance, both in the moving and stationary horse
- Common imbalances and their effects
- Shoeing for different activities such as racing, jumping and dressage
- Effects of specialist shoes such as natural balance, extensions and wedges

### 3.3 Conformation and Movement

- Effects of conformation and limb structure on movement
- Shoeing for improved conformation in young stock
- Ability of shoeing style to compensate for poor conformation

### 3.4 Equine Health

#### 3.4.1 Diseases

- Common diseases in horses, their method of transmission and any likely effects on the lower limb and the hoof
- Which diseases are notifiable and should be reported
- Precautions to be taken when handling and shoeing diseased horses

### **3.4.2 Distorted Hooves**

- Reasons for hoof distortions, whether genetic, injury, condition, use or disease related
- Shoeing of distorted hooves
- Prognosis for improvement

### **3.4.3 Disorders of the Hoof**

Injuries, diseases, degenerative conditions and abnormal growths affecting the hoof wall, the laminae, the soft tissue, the bones, and tendons and ligaments in the hoof capsule.

### **3.4.4 Disorders of the Locomotive Apparatus**

- Tendon and ligament injuries, short and long term treatment, and prognosis for recovery
- Muscle and bone injuries, and their treatment
- Angular/flexural limb deformities in youngstock

### **3.4.5 Diet and Exercise Management**

- Weight and fitness management for hard work, light work and resting.
- Effects of hard feed, additives and grass on hoof condition.

## **3.5 Technical Processes**

### **3.5.1 Hoof Preparation and Repair**

- Assessment of the worn shoe and the hoof before trimming
- Trimming of normal, distorted and diseased feet for level and balance
- Removal of diseased or infected material as appropriate
- Techniques for stopping cracks and filling holes
- How to prepare a hoof for reconstruction, using the right products for cleaning and then reconstruction

### **3.5.2 Glues and Fillers**

- The different kinds of glue and the chemical characteristics of each
- Surface preparation
- Temperature effects on glues
- Safe handling and disposal of materials used

### **3.5.3 Hoof Treatments**

- Dietary additives
- External dressings
- Antiseptic and anti-infectious dressings

### **3.5.4 Pads and Cushions**

- Uses for work
- Uses for alleviation of injury, and as part of treatment

## **3.6 Civics**

Throughout this section, it is the law in the candidate's own nation that is relevant. Where the candidate is being trained and examined overseas, this may require the candidate to show how they are aware of their own national requirements, as well as those in the country of training and examination.

### **3.6.1 Law Affecting the Work Carried out by Farriers**

#### **Responsibilities to the horse**

- Emergency first aid - definition
- Horse welfare - handling, humane methods of restraint
- Appropriate and timely referral to a veterinarian
- Regulations on the administration of drugs
- Legally acceptable invasive cutting or surgical operations unless under veterinary supervision
- Recognition of required areas of competence

#### **Responsibilities to Clients**

- Record keeping - work carried out, charges, prices, insurance cover, marketing, social media
- Work within the area of competence, when to seek a second opinion or veterinary advice
- Clear lines of communication between client and farrier
- Advice to the owner but not diagnosis
- Remaining up to date - annual CPD

#### **Responsibilities to colleagues/ fellow professionals**

- Professional conduct, advertising, social media.
- Client confidentiality
- Appropriate insurance cover for all the above sections.

### **3.6.2 Employment Law**

- Methods of employment - structure of the business - self-employed, employed, partnership
- Business planning
- Contracts of Employment - working hours, rates of pay, overtime
- Liability insurance
- Employee relations, selection, induction, training
- Pension schemes
- Holidays
- Maternity/paternity leave
- Sickness /injury benefits

### **3.6.3 Health and Safety**

- Risk Assessments - clear understanding of a farrier's working environment, and its effect on colleagues, employees, horses, clients, general public
- Correct use of personal protective equipment
- Recording methods and systems of work
- Maintenance of tools and equipment
- Vehicle safety and legal requirements
- Fire safety and method of control

- Thorough inductions to all employees on carrying, lifting, noise, heat etc as required by individual countries
- Emergency procedures - first aid equipment and training

#### **3.6.4 Tax**

- Government requirements on taxation for goods and services applicable to farriery businesses
- Tax levels/ thresholds
- Accounts
- Methods of payment
- Implications of tax avoidance

## **4 Oral**

The candidate will be expected to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the following:

### **4.1 Live Horse Assessment**

- Static and dynamic conformation assessment of one or more horses
- Thorough knowledge of surface anatomy on a live horse, and commonly encountered pathologies related to the practice of corrective farriery

### **4.2 Analysis of Radiography, MRI and Ultrasound Evidence**

- Ability to assess radiographs of the lower limb, below and including the knee and hock
- Discuss with a veterinarian and the owner diagnoses based on X-ray, MRI and ultrasound scans. The candidate is not expected to make an initial diagnosis.

### **4.3 Question and Answer Session on Case Study**

- Present the results of the case study
- Answer questions from a veterinarian and farrier(s) on the background to the case study, the reasons for the actions taken and the prognosis for the future

### **4.4 Production of Shoeing Plan**

- Production of a detailed shoeing plan for the given horse(s) relevant to the evidence available and the work intended, or the remedial treatment planned
- Knowledge of the relative advantages and disadvantages of hot and cold shoeing

### **4.5 Relations with Owners, Trainers and Veterinarians**

- Demonstrate an ability to provide simple explanations and advice to owners and trainers
- Demonstrate an ability to discuss in detail with a veterinarian diagnoses and treatment

## **5 Practical**

Candidates will be expected to produce evidence of having completed all of the activities below, and will be required to complete a representative sample under examination conditions. Evidence may be either training records, or certified records and photographs from the workplace.

During the examination candidates may be required to complete any of the procedures listed at Annex C. They will be expected to have sufficient theoretical knowledge to support this practical work.

## **5.1 Forging**

Forge work will be expected to be of a considerably higher standard than that required for basic qualification as a farrier. Candidates must make in advance and present to the examiners 10 specimen shoes chosen by them from the list at Annex B. During the examination candidates may be required to make or carry out any of the following:

### **5.1.1 Normal Shoes**

#### **5.1.1.1 Production from Bar Stock**

Make fullered, three-quarter fullered and plain stamped steel shoes using both coal/coke and gas fires. These must be made in pairs, and can include both front and hind shoes in a variety of sizes

#### **5.1.1.2 Adjustment of Machine Made**

Adjustment of machine made shoes using either coal/coke or gas fires to fit a live horse or dead legs

#### **5.1.1.3 Cold Forging**

Adjustment of steel and alloy machine made shoes without the use of heat to fit a live horse or dead legs

### **5.1.2 Therapeutic and Orthopaedic Shoes**

#### **5.1.2.1 Production from Bar Stock**

Produce from bar stock one or more of any of the shoes listed in Annex A

#### **5.1.2.2 Adjustment of Machine Made**

Adjust machine made shoes to produce one or more of any of the shoes listed at Annex A

## **5.2 Trimming**

### **5.2.1 Barefoot Trimming for Maintenance**

Trim the feet of young and mature horses not in work

### **5.2.2 Barefoot Trimming for Work**

Trim the feet of a range of horses of different age, type and size for working barefoot

### **5.2.3 Trimming for Shoeing**

Trim the feet of healthy horses in work for the reception of shoes, ensuring correct balance and level, and making due allowance for conformation

### **5.2.4 Remedial Trimming**

Trim feet to correct imbalances and deformations

Trim feet as required for corrective shoeing, or treatment of infections and injuries

## **5.3 Shoeing**

### **5.3.1 Shoeing Normal Feet**

Demonstrate fitting either hot or cold, according to the normal practice in the country, both handmade and machine made steel or alloy shoes, fitted in pairs

### **5.3.2 Therapeutic and Orthopaedic Shoeing**

Fit any of the shoes listed in Annex A, which may be steel, alloy or plastic either singly or in pairs as appropriate. Candidates must demonstrate that they can work with a range of different materials and methods of attachment to the hoof.

**ANNEX A List of Horseshoes for Examination**

**ANNEX B List of Horseshoes Suitable for Shoe Exhibition**

**ANNEX C List of Procedures**

## ANNEX A

### LIST OF HORSESHOES FOR EXAMINATION

A candidate may be required to make to the required standard any of the shoes specified on the List of Horseshoes shown below for the examination:

**1. Elevated Heel Shoe**

For altered hoof-pastern axis and foot-limb anterior/posterior relationship.

**2. Unilateral Sidebone Shoe**

Traditional shoe design to follow wear pattern and allow expansion to hoof capsule.

**3. Interference Shoes – Variations**

For forging, speedy cutting, scalping and brushing

**4. Rocker Shoe**

Shoe for ringbone, raised at quarters, thinned towards heels and toe, usually with rolled toe. With or without bar.

**5. Wide-Webbed Shoe**

Shoe for pedal-osteitis, sole cover, bruised foot.

**6. Shoe for Corn**

Shoe expanded at heel to cover seat of corn and bar.

**7. Bar Shoe (Straight, Egg, Heart)**

All types, steel and aluminium. Traditional shoe for corns, hoof wall lesions, stabilising hoof capsule.

**8. Fracture Shoe (Immobilising Shoe)**

All types, steel and aluminium

**9. Medial or Lateral Extension Shoe**

All types. Steel for mature horses; aluminium for foals in treatment of angular limb deformity.

**10. Half or Threequarter Bar Shoe**

A unilateral support shoe for localising support to an individual area.

**11. Calk and Feather**

Hind conformation defect.

**12. Lateral Extension and Feather**

Hind conformation defect.



## ANNEX B

### LIST OF HORSESHOES SUITABLE FOR SHOE EXHIBITION

**1. French Bar**

Weak/collapsed heels – bar width 2/3 length of frog, solid bar (heavy) or set away from ground.

**2. “Z”-Bar Shoe**

For relieving or floating heel.

**3. Heartbar (Frog Support Shoe, Column Support Shoe) all types, steel, aluminium.** For laminitis in conjunction with dorsal wall resection, hoof wall lesions, lesions to laminal Bond.

**4. Heartbar Variations**

Eggbar-heartbar, combining caudal support with bone column support of full heartbar frog plate. Open-toe heartbar. “Z”-bar heartbar, for floating heel and column support.

**5. Patten Shoe (Rest Shoe, Raised Bar Shoe) all types, steel**

Traditional shoe offering elevation and caudal support, deep digital flexor tendon lesion.

**6. Fetlock Support Shoe (Swan-neck Shoe) all types, steel**

Traditional shoe for suspensory ligament injury providing cradle support to fetlock.

**7. Fishtail (Caudal Extension Shoe) all types, steel, aluminium**

Shoe with bar extending horizontally under fetlock; for flexor tendon lesion, post fracture cast causing toe elevation.

**8. Hospital Shoe (Treatment Plate Shoe) all types, steel or aluminium shoe, aluminium plate**

Bar shoe with removable plate bolted on; puncture wounds, post surgery, with heartbar in cases of prolapsed distal phalanx.

**9. Hospital Shoe Variation**

Walking-plate shoe, as above, but with plate at toe lodged in or under shoe to allow exercise.

**10. Fracture Shoe**

Continuous Rim Shoe – Rim running from heel to heel enclosing hoof capsule, usually filled with acrylic.

## **ANNEX C**

### **LIST OF PROCEDURES**

Listed below are the procedures which a candidate is expected to be able to perform competently at the examination.

The candidate is required have sufficient theoretical knowledge to support his practical work. He must be able to discuss and may be requested to perform hoof-curettage, normally on a morbid specimen, or to demonstrate hoof repair, or any other practical farriery treatment, including the procedures listed below. A sound knowledge of farriery and its relationship to young stock is essential.

Listed below are the procedures, together with descriptions, materials and equipment which may be requested at the examination.

**1. Abscess Search**

Locate, ventilate and treat - farrier's tools.

**2. Hoof Wall Resection**

Remove a section of the hoof wall - farrier's tools and/or dremel.

**3. Hoof Wall Repair/Extensions/ Seedy Toe/White Line Disease**

Debride loose and necrotic horn, rebuild with composite repair material - repair kit

Section or curettage of defective horn - farrier's tools and/or dremel

**4. Cracks**

Repair using own choice of method and materials (screw & wire, screw & fibreglass, compound patch, lace patch) - farrier's tools and/or dremel, drill, appropriate materials.

**5. Glue on Shoe**

Steel/Aluminium/Composite

**Procedures carried out on sensitive tissue must be performed under appropriate anaesthesia induced and supervised by a veterinarian.**