

# Online HorseCollege



## **Student Workbook**

### **2.H.04 Travelling**

[www.OnlineHorseCollege.com](http://www.OnlineHorseCollege.com)

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## ***Travelling 2.H.04 Workbook***

Students are to complete Facilities 2.H.03 assessment prior to attempting Travelling 2.H.04.

Students are to follow all recommended safety considerations

Practical assessments for Horse Care 2.H.04 are as follows

- Types of Transport
- Travelling Equipment
- Safety Checks
- Loading Procedure
- Unloading Procedure

These assessments incorporate the following unit from the SIS30710 Sport Industry Training Package which include the listed elements

SISOEQO201A Handle horses

- Identify and safely catch, control and lead a horse
- Assist with the transportation of horses

*Further information about this assessment is available at [www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au)*

## **Travel Introduction**

Travelling can be quite stressful on both handler and horse but with the correct preparation and equipment this can be minimised. Young horses, travelling for the first time are often better partnered up with an older horse who is accustomed to travel. This will give the youngster more confidence. When planning to transport a horse remember to check with the relevant authorities to check for any regulations into entering new zones. For example to travel interstate you may need to have the horse sprayed for ticks prior to crossing the border. Or when transporting horses internationally horses will need to spend a period of time in quarantine.

There are many different options available to transport horses. Depending on the distance being travelled, the number of horses to be transported and your budget, will determine which is the most practical for the situation.

### **Incident reports**

In the event that circumstances arise during loading, unloading or travel where injury, damage or uncharacteristic behaviour of the horse occurs it is necessary to fill out an incident report so that the damage can be repaired appropriately or plans and procedures can be reviewed to reduce the risk of injury next time and also so the next person to handle the horse can be aware of its behaviour.

If it anytime you are having trouble loading or unloading a horse, you should ask your supervisor for assistance.

## Types of Transport

### Floats

These are towed by a vehicle, attached to which by the towbar. There are 2 types, straight loading and angle loading.

Straight loading floats are those which the horses face the direction of the vehicle. These types most commonly come in single and double options (meaning they have room for 1 to 2 horses). But occasionally you will see them cater for 3 horses.



Angle loading is which the horses travel on an angle. These types come in 2 and 3 horse spaces. Horses tend to transport better in angle load floats.



Goosenecks are similar in style to a float but are attached to the vehicle (usually a small truck) with a coupling system. These have more room for more horses and sleeping quarters (which can be quite elaborate).





## Types of Transport (cont.)

### Trucks

This style is suited to the professional, competitor who spends lots of time travelling with multiple horses because trucks usually have built in sleeping quarters (which can be quite elaborate) and have room to carry upwards of 4 horses. Also suited to horse transport companies, horses either travel straight on, angled or sideways.



### Air

International transport can be done via plane, much quicker than ship. Horses will need to be quarantined upon entering a new country.



## Travelling Equipment

Halter & lead

Use to control and tie horse up in the trailer so it cant turn around



Float boots/Travelling bandages

Leg protection



Poll guard

Protects the top of the horses head incase the horse hits it on the roof of the vehicle



Tail bandage/Tail guard

Protects the tail from rubbing if the horse leans back





## Travelling Equipment (cont.)

Day rug/sheet

Keeps the horse clean whilst travelling



Rug/blanket

Provides warmth while travelling

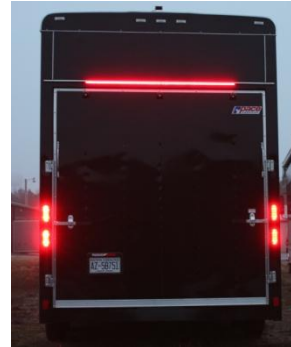


## Safety Checks

It is very important before even loading the horse you do a check over the towing vehicle and the trailer to ensure everything is in safe and proper working order.

### Lights

Check indicators and brake lights on the towing vehicle.



### Brakes

Check brake fluid levels. Check hand brake.  
Check trailer park brake, this should be disengaged when in motion.



### Tyres

Check all the tyres on the towing vehicle and trailer, including the spares. Check tyre pressure, you may need to refer to the towing vehicles manual as the tyre pressure may vary depending on the weight of load being towed. Check for tyre wear/damage.



## Safety Checks (cont.)

### Towing Vehicle

Ensure vehicle is prepared for travel, check oil, petrol/gas and water levels. Ensure the vehicle is within legal limits for towing. You may need to refer to the vehicle's manual in regards to recommended towing weights for the vehicle. Ensure the vehicle is within the legal requirements of your local authority i.e. roadworthy.



### Trailer

Ensure the trailer is prepared for travel. Ensure it is clean (no old manure), the flooring is non-slip, no sharp edges or objects, it is safe and comfortable.



## Loading Procedure

- 1) Ensure the vehicle and trailer/float is parked in a safe and appropriate place and have the trailer/float open, ready for the horse to enter.
- 2) You may need to make the space where the horse is to be loaded inviting, you can do this by shifting the dividing bar across to make the space bigger, then move it back once the horse has walked on.
- 3) Have the horse prepared with the appropriate travelling equipment.
- 4) If there is only one horse being transported you should load it on the side of the trailer behind the driver. If there are 2 being transported then the heavier horse goes on the drivers side. This will mean the trailer will travel better as the weight is behind the driver, in the centre of the road.
- 5) Under the supervision of a competent horse person, load the horse into the trailer. If only 1 horse is travelling load on the side behind the driver. This will help to keep the trailer/float travelling straight as roads are angled slightly higher in the middle. If travelling with 2 horses, load the heavier horse behind the driver. This isn't an issue with angle loads or trucks.
- 6) Once the ramp is lifted up and the trailer/float is closed, then tie the horse up. Never tie the horse up before the trailer is closed because (a) the horse is confined it will get a fright and panic (b) the horse can pull back & fall out of the vehicle with the possibility of doing severe injury to legs and (c) from a bad experience the horse is likely to loose confidence and become difficult to load in the future.
- 7) Tie the horse up short enough that it cannot turn around or get its head around the centre divider but can still lower its head a little.
- 8) Do a final check of the trailer/float and vehicle before setting off.



## Unloading Procedure

- 1) Ensure the vehicle and trailer/float is parked in a safe and appropriate place.
- 2) Check the vehicle then untie the horse inside the trailer/float
- 3) Open the trailer/lower the ramp.
- 4) Under the supervision of a competent horse person unload the horse. In the case of a 2 horse, straight loading float/trailer, keep the horse straight and back it up down the ramp, make sure all 4 hooves are on the ground before turning the horse around. This will minimise the risk of injury from a leg sliding off the ramp. If unloading from a 3 horse, angle load float/trailer or from a truck there may be enough room to turn the horse inside the float/trailer/truck and lead it down the ramp.
- 5) Check the horse over for injury
- 6) Clean and prepare the float/trailer for the next outing.



## Extension Lesson

In each workbook you will find an extension lesson. These extension lessons are for you to utilise to help you understand and put into practice the knowledge covered in the workbook. They do not form part of your assessment (and unlike the quizzes we do not require you to send them in) however we do recommend that they be completed.

Answer the following questions with yes or no.

Towing will affect the vehicles accelerating and braking performance?	
The towing vehicle and trailer must meet safety and legal requirements?	
Towing more than one trailer is prohibited?	
You should not tow anything that exceeds the towing capacity as specified by the vehicle manufacturer or the towing apparatus?	

With the supervision of an experienced horse person/handler, practice loading and unloading a suitable horse in the manner describe by this workbook with consideration to the following:-

- Stay in a safe position at all times?
- Load the horse into the trailer with consideration to the weight of the horse and location of the driver (i.e., heaviest horse behind the driver in the trailer)?
- Not go behind/under ramp if not secured?
- Do each activity in the correct sequence?
- Put up the tail gate before tying up the horse?
- Untie the horse before opening rear of the trailer?
- Consider the individual needs of the horse?
- Ask for assistance (if required)?
- Report incidents, equipment defects, procedural problems and animal behaviour during transportation (if required)?

Prepare a vehicle for travel by checking:

- Oil levels
- Water levels
- Brake fluid
- Air/Tyre pressure
- Lights and Indicators



## **Recommended Reading**

Horse Sense (The Australian guide to horse husbandry)- Peter Huntington and Fran Cleland

Pony Club Manual No.2- Elaine Knox-Thompson and Suzanne Dickens

The Complete Horse Care Manual- Colin Vogel

## References

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