

Health and safety guidelines for EFFA competition and forging events.

These are guidelines only and are to be used in addition to, but not in place of the host countries own Health and Safety Guidelines and are not exhaustive.

General

The Chief of committee or Chief Steward is primarily in charge of the running of the event in general and in particular of health and safety on the day.

He/she should be responsible for the inspection of the competition/ working area at the start of the day and as and when changes are made to it.

Particularly when gas bottles are changed, or anvils, horses and barriers are moved. Any Stewards/ helpers should report matters of concern promptly and directly to chief of competition or chief steward.

Due to the large number of participants, it is important to easily identify the competition organizers and stewards. A special area should be assigned to them and all organisers and stewards should be easily recognizable so they can be quickly found if problems arise.

There should be sufficient stewards allocated to the working area with sufficient equipment (buckets, shovels and brooms) to carry out their tasks promptly.

Safety

First Aid

First-aid equipment shall be available for emergency situations and its location shall be visible for all and being marked with the international symbol (white cross on green back ground). An automobile first aid kit is not suitable.

Work Stations

Barriers

Places for farriers should have a size of approx. 5 x 5 m, in order to prevent reciprocal hazards during forging (flying sparks, movement with hot horseshoes etc.). The work stations must be separated from the spectators.

Fire extinguishers

In case of fire, each workstation shall have a water bucket with handle, and be provided with a fire extinguisher of suitable size intended for fire classes ABC.

Gas Safety

Gas Cylinders

To prevent freezing of gas cylinders, where possible larger type cylinders should be used, however due to their degree of slenderness (ratio base to height) these are more at risk of toppling and consequently damage the cylinder valve, especially where the bottles do not have a valve guards fitted by the manufacturer. These cylinders should always secured against toppling over.

Hose Connections

It is extremely important that the hose connection to the gas forge is the correct type and fit, otherwise leaks could occur. All hose connections should be checked by the safety officer (Chief Steward) using a leak detection spray at the beginning of each day and whenever a cylinder is changed.

Gas Hoses/ Fittings

Gas hoses shall not be older than eight years and must be orange in colour which signifies liquefied gas. All Gas hoses between the gas forge and cylinder shall be kept in a safe condition with no damage or wear evident.

All fittings are to be pressed according to existing European standards. See below.



Unsafe hose connections shall not be accepted by the Safety Officer.

Jubilee clip type connections are not permitted for gas pipes



Gas forges

Gas forges shall be equipped with the following protective devices:

- Pressure regulator with manometer (pressure gauge)
- hose breakage protection (Mandatory in Austria, Switzerland and Germany, otherwise recommended)
- Safe ignition device (piezo ignition)

Desirable additional devices strongly recommended for competitions where the forge is frequently left unattended eg. Whilst shoeing the horse.

- Flame arrester
- Protection against extinction of flame.

All Forges are to be mounted on suitable non-flammable stands with a wide base to prevent toppling.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

It is recommended that PPE should include Eye Protection, Ear protection, strong leather boots (steel toe capped) and where applicable aprons or chaps. It is the responsibility of the organisers to make sure everyone is wearing the correct PPE according to the host countries laws at the start of the forging sessions and that it remains in place for the duration of these sessions.

Additional advice

Livestock

To keep the shoeing area as clean and dry as possible, removal and disposal of horse urine and faeces should be done promptly.

A binder, such as sawdust, should be available to absorb the urine.

The standard utilities ie brooms, rake, shovels and a wheelbarrow are appropriate to collect the binder and the horse droppings and this should be removed from the shoeing area regularly and not allowed to accumulate.

Morbid specimens (dead legs)

These shall be fresh, only a few days old, and should be kept cool when being stored (refrigerated).

During use they should be wrapped in cling film in order to prevent bleeding and any other liquid loss.

Always use disposable gloves when working on morbid specimens.

After use or in between two periods of use, the morbid specimens should be returned to the refrigerator and kept cool until their next use.

A dedicated dustbin with bin liner should be provided for dissections and all waste should be disposed of appropriately.

Note:

Where an event involves students, it is important to recognise that the roles and examples set by the organisers, stewards and judges, play an important

part in setting the right example paramount to the encouragement of safe working practise. It is recommended that all those involved in organising such events use the correct PPE when on or near the working /competition areas.