



CRITERIA FOR CERTIFIED AND APPROVED LIVERY YARDS

The Livery Yard membership scheme offered by the ABRS allows the proprietors of livery yard to give their clients and potential clients reassurance that they are keeping their horse at livery on a professionally managed establishment where the ABRS have deemed an excellent level of skill, competence, management and welfare are available to clients and their equines.

There are two membership options- **Certified Yard** and **Approved Yard**. Below, we explain the differing criteria. Approved Livery Yard members can access all the benefits of the Certified membership, with the addition of an extra tier of accreditation from the ABRS following an inspection visit. This gives an additional reassurance to clients that your premises and paperwork have been inspected by an independent assessor.

It is important to understand that due to the large variance on the types of livery and livery premises, livery yards accepted onto the membership schemes are taken as a case-by-case basis as deemed appropriate to the facilities and livery packages or services on offer.

Basic Criteria and Supporting Documents

The following documentation, where applicable, is the minimum required to accompany applications for both Certified and Approved yards:

Criteria	Certified Livery Yard	Approved Livery Yard
Livery Contracts in Place	✓	✓
Public Liability Insurance	✓	✓
Care, Custody and Control Insurance <i>(where applicable- if providing livery services)</i>	✓	✓
Employers Liability Insurance <i>(where applicable- if employing staff)</i>	✓	✓
Health and Safety Risk Assessment	✓	✓
Fire Safety Plan	✓	✓
Map of Livery Yard Layout	✓	✓
Photographs of Livery Yard and Facilities	✓	✓
Details of Your Human Welfare Officer <i>(where applicable- for safeguarding purposes)</i>	✓	✓
Details of Your Safeguarding Policy <i>(where applicable- for safeguarding purposes)</i>	✓	✓

Additional Considerations and Criteria for Approved Status

As well as the basic requirements, the **Approved Livery Yards** must have an inspection visit undertaken by an independent assessor. This will be an inspection tailored to the needs of the livery premises, and will be determined by the livery packages, facilities and level of care they provide within the services to their clients. As such, it is hard to give guidance on a specific set of criteria that must be met. However, as an indication, the following gives information on areas of the business and premises that would be considered during the inspection:

Welfare of Equines

Owners of Livery Yards, dependent on the services offered to clients, are likely to manage and care for client horses on a permanent or temporary basis. If you offer any aspect of services within your livery packages, you are likely to have, therefore, all of the associated obligations for the welfare of horses. It is important that you have, and maintain, a reputation for ensuring high standards of horse welfare.

You are required to demonstrate that any horse for which you are responsible:

- Has a suitable environment to live in
- Has a healthy diet (including fresh clean water)
- Is able to behave normally
- Has appropriate company
- Is protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

Riding Facilities

The huge variant in livery types means that facilities can differ hugely between yards. It would be expected that yards provide adequately constructed and maintained riding facilities appropriate to the level of livery package they are offering and their clientele. There should be procedures considered for the organisation of facility use, as well as for any external users of facilities.

Staffing

As an operator of a riding establishment or livery yard, you may employ staff. If you do, you must do so legally (with contracts, job descriptions, PAYE and insurance provisions). You should also invest time in training staff to ensure that they can perform their duties effectively and competently. Training will benefit your business by ensuring that your clients are professionally cared for, horse welfare standards are maintained, and health and safety obligations are met fully.

You will need to have policies, procedures and records that cover employment, qualifications and training relevant to your staffing status, either as required by law or as a 'best practice' recommendation.

Health and Safety

As an operator of a riding establishment or livery yard, you are required to comply with laws and regulations that are intended to protect the health, safety and well-being of staff, clients and the general public.

Depending on your situation, you will need to have policies, risk assessments, procedures and records that cover Health and Safety, Fire Prevention, First Aid and Accidents, either required by law or as a 'best practice' recommendation.

Clients

As an operator of business, you are expected to trade fairly with clients and, while doing so, take the necessary steps to protect their health, safety and welfare. To do so, you should have the necessary policies, procedures and records. These duties of care extends to both the client's presence on the your premises and to the riding activities undertaken.

Clients represent all races, ages, sexes, levels of ability and, indeed, disability. You must treat all clients fairly and be prepared to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate their needs either as required by law or as a 'best practice' recommendation.

Yard owners should also be able to demonstrate their communication with clients in a professional and concise manner when organising or defining the care structure, yard rules, implementing changes in routine or when engaging with potential clients.

Administration

As an operator of business, you are expected to maintain suitable business records such as livery contracts, client records, invoicing records. Any records should be kept updated, and GDPR compliancy considered with their use and storage. This would include certain procedures and record keeping as required by law or as a 'best practice' recommendation.

You would be expected to keep records on your clients and the horses in your care, as well as considerations for passporting obligations, and record keeping surrounding invoicing and services provided. Such records would demonstrate adherence to best practice recommendations.

Prior to any inspection, your approval requirements would be discussed with you in detail, and a bespoke inspection tailored to your yard and livery types. The ABRS are happy to make recommendations or advise of points to consider to best assist the success of any inspection, as well as ongoing support.

Please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss your eligibility for either category:

Telephone: +44 (0)1403 741188

Email: office@abrs-info.org