

**Association of Farrier Trainers of Canada**

**Association des Marechaux-Ferrants Formateurs du Canada**

**AFTC / AMFFC**

**Canadian Farrier Apprenticeship**



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**Introduction**

A. How to Use This Reference Guide

There will be a lot of work and learning material to cover over your next three years of apprenticeship. Your ATF (Approved Trained Farrier) will play a key role in your farrier education by providing hands-on training in the art and science of farriery. In order for the apprenticeship program to keep track of your on-the-job training experience, you are expected to provide a portfolio of work done to show the experience and skills you have gained. Working through the tasks outlined in this guide will help you develop your portfolio.

Role of the Approved Trained Farrier (ATF)

- The ATF will be required to teach and demonstrate the art and science of farriery.
- Provide a fixed or mobile shop in the form of basic forging tools such as anvil and forge for the student to develop their forging skills.
- Help the student to develop practical skills to the AFTC program standards.
- Provide the student with the opportunity to work on a variety of different equine breeds and situations that cannot be provided in a college setting.

**Credentials**

The credentials of **Approved Journeyman Farrier of Canada ( AJFC)** will be awarded to the candidates upon successful completion of the third level exam.

Approved Farrier of Canada (AFC) will be awarded after successful completion of second level exams.

Approved Apprentice Farrier of Canada (AAFC) will be awarded after successful completion of first level exams.

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**Level 3**

**(End of Third Year)**

*At the end of the third year, tests will be taken by the apprentice to evaluate their skills, knowledge and understanding of the following:*

**Portfolio Review**

Prior to registering for an exam the candidate will prepare a portfolio of their everyday work.

Presentation of evidence of professional practice and fundamental farriery in the field. The candidate will present two examples of regular ongoing farriery of an average horse. The presentation will show the horse in general and the hooves in more detail.

Create a portfolio of images showing a fore and a hind hoof of two horses regularly shod by the candidate.

Must include, front, side - (medial and lateral), and solar images of the hooves and shoes.

Showing hooves and shoes at the end of a shoeing cycle before the shoes are pulled.

The same series of photos after the feet are trimmed and again after it is freshly shod.

Include a brief description of each image and a brief history of the horse and the work it does.

Images must be clear, well lit, on a clean flat floor and taken from the same distance and angle for comparison.

Examples available at [www.farriertrainersofcanada.ca](http://www.farriertrainersofcanada.ca)

## Theory Exam - 80 % to pass

B. (Exam based on Gregory, Butler and Gill the Whole horse textbook)

A written exam(s) on the following subjects will be taken by each apprentice to assess their knowledge / understanding of:

- Horsemanship
- General whole horse anatomy
- Anatomy of the leg
- Anatomical terms
- Physiology
- Safety
- Basic conformation and common faults
- General horse health
- Disease and lameness of the hoof
- In depth anatomy of limbs
- Pathology and Disease
- Lameness of the Limb
- Therapeutic farriery
- Veterinary Imaging technology - Normal / abnormal images

## Practical Oral Exam 70% to pass

- Discussion with both an AFTC Vet examiner and Farrier examiner. The oral exam should cover: *Anatomy - Points of the horse - Pathology - Biomechanics - Shoeing - Radiographs.*

### ***Expected knowledge about radiographs***

*On lateromedial views:*

1. Alignment of P1, P2, P3
2. Is the dorsal wall parallel to dorsal P3?
3. Sole depth at tip of P3
4. Palmar/plantar angle - steep? acceptable? flat?
5. Toe length
6. COR

*On dorsopalmar/plantar views:*

1. Medial to lateral balance of coffin bone
2. Joint spaces (coffin joint, pastern joint, fetlock joint).
3. Medial to lateral hoof wall balance

***Horse management, working position and safety will all factor into scoring of practical exams***

## **Practical test 1 - Tool Inspection**

- inspection of a complete set of shoeing and forging tools. Tools are checked to ensure they are safe to use. Including a shoeing apron.

## **Practical test 2 - Horse Assessment**

### ***Dynamic horse assessment -***

#### ***5 stage assessment protocol***

- Assess Environment, what could influence the trot up, is it safe to have a trot up?
- Assess Attitude of horse and handler, are there safety tools added, chain, rope halter etc.
- Assess basic conformation
- Observation at walk
- Observation at trot.

Candidate has an opportunity to gain more information about the horse. When asked the examiner will provide a prepared standardised scenario about the horse. Age, sex, type of work etc. Scenarios will be used based on the type of horse i.e. QH could be a reiner, barrel horse, trail horse. Warmblood could be a dressage horse, TB could be a jumper or eventer, Arab could be an endurance horse etc,etc.

Examiners can ask questions about the horse or about the trot up itself, i.e. why would a farrier want to trot the horse up?

What direction should the horse turn during a change of direction?

How is the horse landing?

Is the horse lame / not lame?

### ***Static Horse assessment -***

The static assessment will take place after the Dynamic assessment. There will be an opportunity to pick up and clean feet and assess the overall condition of the feet. This time will be used to create an appropriate shoeing plan with the information gained by the dynamic assessment. Any questions about the shoeing plan will be answered by the examiners at this time\*.

\* Candidates will not be given specific direction about how to trim, or fit the horse.

## **Practical test 3 - Shoeing -90 min, 70% to pass**

***A minimum score of seven is needed in every section of the shoeing exam that is scored to successfully complete level 3.***

- Shoe 1 side of a horse (1 front and 1 hind) to meet approved shoeing plan
- Both feet to be shod with hand-made shoes.
- Both shoes to be appropriately clipped
- At least one of the shoes will have a modified toe. Rocker toe, rolled toe, safe toe
- At least one of the shoes will be ¾ fullered. The other shoe can be either concave, plain stamp or 3/4 fullered, as per the approved shoeing plan.

### **Fit Specifications:**

- Fit from the widest point forward is to be perimeter fit.
- Setting shoes back off the toe only if deemed appropriate by the examiner otherwise the foot is to be trimmed to even wall thickness and fit to that.
- The longest acceptable length is to the end of the heel bulbs
- The shortest acceptable length is no less than 1/16" of shoe beyond the last point of weight bearing surface.
- The amount of medial and lateral expansion and heel length will be determined and declared by the candidate during the horse assessment.

***At the discretion of the examiners, any shoe likely to cause injury to the horse will be considered a fail.***

## **Practical test 4 - Forging 40 min 70% to pass**

Build a forge welded, straight bar shoe to fit a pattern, 3/4 feather fullered with a rolled toe. Pattern to be provided by examiners. Examples available at [www.farriertrainersofcanada.ca](http://www.farriertrainersofcanada.ca)

### ***Forging Fit Specifications***

- From the widest part of the template forward the shoe will fit the perimeter, + or - 1mm.
- From the widest part of the template to the point of the heel the shoe will allow for expansion and support to a maximum of half the width of shoe stock at the heel of the template. The heel of the shoe should fit the pattern center of stock.

***Upon successful completion of Level 3 the credential  
Approved Journeyman Farrier of Canada AJFC will be  
awarded***

