



CODE OF PRACTICE

OPERATION OF HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGES

WITHIN THE CITY OF MELBOURNE

April 2011

Contents

1 Introduction

2 Definitions

3 Responsibilities of permit holders and operators

4 Responsibilities of carriage drivers

5 Carriage driver qualifications

6 Welfare of horses

1. Introduction

In order to promote and maintain excellence of commercial horse drawn carriages in the city of Melbourne the following Code of Practice has been developed to apply to permit holders in the operation of their carriage business.

2. Definitions

2.1 “HDV” means Horse-Drawn Vehicle.

2.2 “Horse” means any animal of the genus Equus.

2.3 “Carriage” means any device in or upon which any person is or may be transported or drawn, designed to be or capable of being drawn by a horse or horses.

2.4 “Person” means an individual, company, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity.

2.5 “Stable” means any place, establishment or facility where one or more horses are housed and maintained.

2.6 “Veterinarian” means a registered Veterinarian practitioner.

2.7 “Work” means when a horse is at its carriage stand or place of hire. Work ends when the horse is unharnessed and removed from the carriage.

2.8 “Driver” means a person in charge of a horse-drawn carriage for hire.

2.9 “Authorised Officer” means an Officer of the Melbourne City Council or a member of the Victorian Police authorised under the Melbourne City Council Activities Local Law 2009.

3. Responsibilities of permit holders and operators

3.1 Permit holders, and any operator or driver of Horse-Drawn Vehicle within the City of Melbourne municipality must comply with this Code of Practice as a condition of the Horse-Drawn Vehicle permit issued pursuant to the Melbourne City Council Activities Local Law 2009, the Street Activity Policy 2011, Victorian Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses, Domestic Animal Act 1994, Road Safety Road Rules 2009, Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Horses (Victoria), Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and the Victorian Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses at Horse Hire Establishments.

3.2. Permit holders must ensure manure bags are fitted to all horses. Horse manure bags must be securely and properly fitted to horses to ensure that all expelled waste is effectively captured at all times. Manure bags must be regularly emptied and collected to prevent spillage. Drivers must carry appropriate equipment such as disposal bags, shovels, disinfectant and clean water to ensure that any waste is cleaned up immediately.

3.3 Permit holders must not enter the Bourke Street or Swanston Street Mall with a horse-drawn carriage unless prior written permission is obtained from the Melbourne City Council.

3.4 Permit holders must obtain specific written authorisation issued by the Melbourne City Council to enter Swanston Street between La Trobe Street and Flinders Street.

3.5 Permit Holders operating a carriage within the municipality must display an authorised Permit Plate issued by the Council on the front and rear of the carriage and must be plainly visible from 20 metres in all directions.

3.6 Permit holders must maintain appropriate insurance for all carriages and drivers.

3.7 Permit holders will ensure that the area of trading does not unduly compromise the amenity of the surrounding area.

3.8 Permit holders and drivers will immediately and effectively clean any expelled animal waste and disperse the waste with clean water.

3.9 Permit holders will engage the services of a waste management contractor for the collection of horse manure at an approved collection point within the City of Melbourne.

3.10 Permit holders will ensure that all persons employed in carriage operations are covered by Victorian Work Cover Insurance.

3.11 Permit holders will provide protective equipment to persons employed in carriage operations during the months of September to April to protect against radiation from the sun.

3.12 Permit holders and drivers are required to maintain their carriages in a clean and roadworthy condition.

3.13 Permit holders shall ensure that all horses associated with a Horse-Drawn Vehicle Permit issued by the Melbourne City Council are implanted with a permanent identification device as prescribed under the Domestic, Feral and Nuisance Animals Regulations 2005.

4. Responsibilities of carriage drivers

4.1 Drivers will comply with and have a thorough knowledge of the Victorian Road Safety Road Rules 2009.

4.2 Drivers will not operate or be in charge of any horse drawn carriage while under the influence of any alcohol or narcotic drugs.

4.3 Drivers will ensure that the front and tail lamps of the carriage are illuminated during periods of poor visibility or darkness. Horse-Drawn Carriages must be clearly visible at times of darkness or poor visibility with adequately working front and rear tail lamps in accordance with legislative requirements for vehicles in Victoria.

4.4 Drivers will not permit the speed of the horse drawn carriage being driven to exceed a slow trot.

4.5 Drivers in charge of a carriage will not permit another person to drive except an apprentice under training.

4.6 Drivers will not permit more passengers into a carriage than the permit allows.

4.7 Drivers will ensure that all passengers are seated within the carriage while it is in motion.

4.8 Drivers are responsible for the proper and humane care and treatment of the horses under his or her direct supervision and control, in accordance with Clause 6.

4.9 Drivers will be dressed neatly and cleanly in accordance with the instructions of the carriage owners.

5. Carriage Driver Qualifications

5.1 Drivers will be over 18 years of age.

5.2 New drivers will be trained and serve as an apprentice to a proficient qualified driver.

5.3 New drivers will remain under training for sufficient time to enable them to become proficient in the tasks of grooming, cleaning the harness and padding, fitting the bridle bit and harness to the horse, hitching the horse to the carriage and driving the carriage on city streets in a safe and humane manner.

6. Welfare of Horses

6.1 Permit holders and drivers must adhere to the Victorian Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses, Domestic Animal Act 1994, Code of Practice for the Land Transport of Horses (Victoria), Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and the Victorian Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses at Horse Hire Establishments, and each of the following additional items specifically relevant to the horse-drawn vehicle industry.

6.2 Permit holders will supply the City of Melbourne with documentation showing that a particular veterinary practice is willing and in a position to supply emergency veterinary treatment to the horses under their control when requested to do so.

6.3 Only suitable horses or combination of horses with adequate draft ability will be used to draw horse drawn vehicles. Horses should be over four years of age and exceed 14.2 hands in height.

6.4 Mares will not be used for carriage operations after 120 days into pregnancy.

6.5 Mares will not be used for carriage operations while she has a foal at foot or within the first six months after giving birth to a foal, unless the foal has died, or has been weaned from the mare within this six-month period.

6.6 Permit holders and drivers will ensure that their horses are not in work more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period or more than 38 hours in any seven day period and allow a 20 minute rest period in the standing position after two hours continuous work. Drivers and Permit Holders of Horse-Drawn Carriages must carry a log book and produce on request by a Council Authorised Officer or any member of the Victoria Police. The log book must include the Carriage Permit plate number (issued by Council), driver's name, accurate identification of horses being used, start and finish times, hours worked for horses, horse rest periods and any other relevant information.

6.7 Working horses will be appropriately shod on all four feet and not have any loose shoes. Shoes that are designed to prevent slipping or absorb shock should be utilised when working on hard paved surfaces. A horse that loses a shoe or is not appropriately shod will be taken out of service until such time that the shoe is replaced or the problem cured.

6.8 Permit holders and drivers shall ensure that no horse is worked beyond its level of fitness, nutrition, health and soundness.

6.9 A working horse that becomes unfit for work as a result of injury, illness or disease shall be removed from service until it is examined by a qualified veterinarian and is deemed fit to resume work.

6.10 When temperatures exceed 30°C with no cloud cover, horses will be provided with adequate shade during rest periods.

6.11 No horse will work when the temperature exceeds 35°C and the relative humidity exceeds 35 per cent. Regardless of the level of relative humidity, no horse will work in temperatures exceeding 37°C. On days of high humidity and temperature, horses should be provided with adequate shade and water.

6.12 On days where the temperature drops below 5°C, horses will be covered with woollen lined and waterproof quarter sheets when standing between rides.

6.13 Only bits that are in good order will be used for controlling horses. If a horse appears to be in distress, the bits may be inspected by an authorised officer or qualified equine veterinarian or Inspector authorised under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986. The driver may be directed to have the bits changed. Horses will not be tethered or secured in any way with reins or other items directly attached to the horses' bits.

6.14 Harness and Gear - every part of the harness being used in relation to the horse-drawn vehicle under the permit, will be kept in good order and repair, fit properly to prevent injury to the horse and ensure the horse is securely attached to the horse-drawn vehicle. If any horse is displaying signs of injuries or sores from the use of the harness, they are to be withdrawn from work until the injury or sores are healed.

6.15 Melbourne City Council may refuse to issue a permit for a horse-drawn vehicle to any person who has been found guilty of an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Victoria) or similar Act in another State or Territory of Australia.

6.16 Melbourne City Council may suspend or revoke a permit for a horse-drawn vehicle if the proprietor, member or person holding the permit has been found guilty of an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Victoria) or similar Act in another State or Territory of Australia.

6.17 A person who has been found guilty of an offence under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Victoria) or similar Act in another State or Territory of Australia within the preceding five years shall not drive or convey a horse-drawn vehicle.