

NCWC Driving Skills Test A (DRAFT)

Passing the NCWC Driving Test "A" qualifies the driver(s) to drive horses at public events under the following circumstances:

- Longline driving: single horse, pairs, fours, sixes.
- Postillion driving: all positions in 2, 4, and 6-horse hitches.
- At NCWC public events, including in battle scenarios if horse passes element IV.B..
- At all gaits (permission of Battalion Commanders required to go above a trot)
- Level to hilly terrain.

Driver Name:

Horses (s) Names/Descriptions (if a pair or team, indicate positions of horses):

Circle Type of Impression: Postillion Longline

Type/Description of Vehicle:

Name of Evaluator:

Date:

The following must be read and signed by all drivers:

Even if I pass this Driving Skills Test, I understand that it is my responsibility, not the evaluator's, to ensure that the horse(s) I am driving are physically fit and sound for their intended use; that harness and vehicle are in good repair and structurally sound; and horses and equipment are used in accordance with the NCWC Safety Rules. I understand that no list of rules or guidelines can address all possible situations and that I must use my best judgment in driving horses at NCWC events. I understand that this passing this test does not certify me or my horses as "safe," but only indicates that I have the skills necessary to be able to participate in NCWC field events.

Signed _____ Date _____

I. Condition of Horse(s).

- A. The horse(s) are in adequate condition for the work they will be required to do.
B. The horse(s) are serviceably sound for their intended use.

PASS/FAIL

Evaluator's Comments

II. Hitching and Mounting.

- A. The horses are harnessed and hitched correctly. Harness is in good repair, fits the horse, and is adjusted correctly. Vehicle size/weight is appropriate to the horse(s). The horses stand quietly while being hitched.
B. The driver enters the vehicle or mounts his horse correctly.

PASS/FAIL

Evaluator's Comments

III. Driving test at the walk, medium (working) trot, strong trot, and canter.

The following maneuvers are to be executed at the indicated gaits. Artillery (postillion) drivers should perform medium trot sitting and strong trot rising.

- A. Perform halt to working trot, and working trot to halt transitions, tracking right and left. (Transition may be performed through the walk in 4-8 strides depending on vehicle weight and braking system.)
B. Increase pace from working trot to strong trot; decrease pace from strong trot to working trot.
C. Perform working trot to canter, and canter to working trot transitions.
D. Reverse direction at the working trot, from tracking left to tracking right, and vice versa.
E. Longline drivers: Perform 20 meter circles at the working trot to the left and right. Postillion drivers: Perform 40 meter (120') circles to the left and right.
F. Perform Obliques (45 degree turns) at the working trot to the left and right (if in dressage arena, cross the long diagonal.)

- G. Perform 90 degree turns to the left and right at the working trot (if in dressage arena, perform inwards turn and change.)
- H. Reinback at least 2, and no more than 4 steps. (Artillery drivers, reinback with gun unlimbered.)
- I. Perform 180 degree fan turns to the left and right.

- J. Maneuver the vehicle between at least 4 gates with 6 inches of clearance on either side of the hubs at the working trot. The gates should be positioned so as to require at least one right turn and one left turn between gates and one reversal of direction. Cones or other movable objects should be used for the gates.
- K. Driver should demonstrate ability to ascend and descend slopes and adjust his driving to the terrain. Driver should use brakes correctly if the vehicle is equipped with them.

A. Execution of maneuvers

Maneuvers and figures listed above are executed correctly. Horses have correct bend through all figures (not counterbent).
PASS/FAIL
Evaluator's Comments:

B. Driver's control of horses

Driver is in control of his horse(s) speed and track. The driver determines the pace, not the horses. Horses appear calm, obedient, and willing to follow direction. Horses willingly increase and slow the pace at all gaits. Drivers have no difficulty halting the horse(s) or performing downward transitions.
PASS/FAIL
Evaluator's Comments:

C. Position of driver.

Driver's position is correct. For artillery (postillion) drivers, they should have a relaxed, secure seat with a straight line from shoulder to hip to heel, the heel positioned slightly lower than the toe. The lower back should be relaxed, allowing them to follow the motion of the horse at a sitting trot.
PASS/FAIL
Evaluator's Comments:

D. Reinsmanship.

The driver holds the reins correctly and maintains contact with the horses (reins should not be allowed to become loose or slack; on the other hand drivers should not be hanging on their horse's mouths.)
PASS/FAIL
Evaluator's Comments:

E. Use of whip.

The whip is held and used correctly.
PASS/FAIL
Evaluator's Comments:

F. Correction of horse.

If the horse does not comply with the rider's command for any reason (for example, inattention, disobedience, or fear) the driver corrects the horse appropriately. Control is reestablished quickly, but quietly and without excessive force on the part of the driver.
PASS/FAIL
Evaluator's Comments:

IV. Reaction of horse(s) to gunfire from others, and other stimuli.

- A. Horse(s) remain calm and obedient when presented with flags, tents, drums, ladies' dresses, etc.
- B. (Optional for horse to be certified for battlefield scenarios): Horse(s) should work calmly and obediently when exposed to gunfire (both cannon and small arms) at a 50 foot distance.

PASS/FAIL
Evaluator's Comments

V. Dismounting and unhitching.

- A. Driver exits the vehicle (or dismounts) correctly.
- B. Horse is disengaged from the vehicle correctly.

PASS/FAIL
Evaluator's comments