

The Farriers Registration Council



Established under the
Farriers (Registration) Act 1975

GUIDE TO FIXED TERM TEMPORARY LICENCE APPLICATIONS BY OVERSEAS FARRIERS

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Context

This Guide is written in accordance with:

- The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975¹ as amended by the Farriers (Registration) (Amendment) Act 1977 and the Farriers (Registration) Act 2017.
- The Farriers Registration Council (Disciplinary Committee) Procedure Rules 1976 (Statutory Instrument 1976/700)
- The Rules of the Farriers Registration Council
- The Register of Farriers and Registration Policy and Procedures

Policy Framework

The profession of farriery is regulated throughout Great Britain (GB) (England, Scotland and Wales) by the Farriers Registration Council (FRC); regulation is inclusive of the Isle of Wight and the Scottish and Welsh Islands. Regulation is **not** inclusive of Northern Ireland, The Isle of Man or The Channel Islands.

The contents of this Guide set out the procedural requirements for qualified farriers with professional experience and/or training obtained outside of GB, who wish to practise farriery within GB for short periods of seasonal work, to undertake limited work experience or to participate in competitions.

The FRC operates a temporary 'licensing' scheme to enable individuals seeking to practice in GB for short periods for the reasons set out above; the scheme is not a statutory provision and is operated as a matter of policy by the Council. The scheme does not include admission to the Register of Farriers, and a temporary licence is offered entirely at the discretion of the Council. The Council's Temporary Licencing scheme cannot be used for the purposes of completing any farriery examinations or qualifications delivered in GB that may provide a subsequent route to registration. The licence is an indication by the FRC that it will not treat any farriery undertaken by the licensee, during the period covered by the licence, to be unlawful.

This Guide is one of two that set out the FRC's procedures regarding overseas farriers who wish to work in GB. This Guide deals only with those who wish to undertake work on a temporary basis, including any farrier-related work experience or to participate in farriery competitions in GB. A separate Guide deals with procedures for those wishing to work on a permanent basis in GB. Applicants are encouraged to engage early with the FRC to ensure they are applying under the correct procedure.

¹ Available to view at www.farrier-reg.gov.uk

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Background

1. The practice of farriery throughout GB (England, Scotland and Wales) is regulated under the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975, which requires all persons engaged in farriery to be registered with the Farriers Registration Council (FRC). It is a criminal offence to shoe horses (including your own) or engage in farriery in GB while not registered as a farrier (or when none of the limited statutory exceptions apply); to do so may render an offender liable to criminal prosecution. A conviction carries a fine of up to £1,000, plus costs and will result in a criminal record.
2. Farriery is defined in Section 18 of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 as:

“any work in connection with the preparation or treatment of the foot of a horse for the immediate reception of a shoe thereon, the fitting by nailing or otherwise of a shoe to the foot or the finishing off of such work to the foot.”
3. The FRC is designated by Government as the National Competent Authority for the profession of farriery in GB.

UK Qualifications for Registration

4. The FRC's prescribed course of training for registration purposes under Section 7(1)(b) of the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 is an Apprenticeship in Farriery, including periods of block release college training, on the job training with an Approved Training Farrier (ATF) and completion of an End Point Assessment (EPA).
5. The Apprenticeship in Farriery is currently delivered within GB by three Colleges (Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College; Myerscough College and Warwickshire College Group), and further details on the Farriery Apprenticeship may be obtained from any of the Colleges.

Applications for a Fixed Term Temporary Licence

6. Temporary licence applications may be made by persons who have at least two years' regular and gainful employment in farriery in a geographical area outside those covered by the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975, as amended, i.e. outside England, Wales and Scotland (Great Britain). As noted above, the grant of a licence is at the discretion of the Council, who will consider all relevant circumstances, including the nature of the two years' experience and the reasons for the application. For the avoidance of doubt, the fact that an applicant has two years' experience of the type required does not automatically lead to the grant of a licence.

7. Conditions of Licence

When a temporary licence is provided, the provision is subject to a number of conditions, namely that:

- a. the applicant works under the direct supervision of a named Approved Training Farrier (ATF) i.e. a person approved by the FRC to train apprentices for the purposes of the Apprenticeship in Farriery. The level of supervision required will depend on the judgement of the ATF, taking into account the ATF's responsibility at all times for ensuring any farriery carried out by the temporary applicant is both safe and in accordance with accepted farriery practices within GB. The supervising ATF will be expected to be based at the same location as the temporary applicant, or be able to demonstrate the arrangements they have in place to ensure supervision can be carried out effectively. Any financial or employment arrangements will be a private matter between the parties concerned. It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify an ATF willing to take on this role; and
- b. the applicant may be restricted to carrying out farriery on equines belonging to a named employer or sponsoring organisation for a specific purpose, e.g. a three-day event team; and
- c. in the case of applicants practicing for shoeing competitions or demonstrations, the organisers of the relevant competitions must sponsor the application and confirm that an ATF will be present in a supervisory capacity and who at all times will be responsible for the applicant; and
- d. the licence will be valid for no longer than six (6) months in total, in any twelve (12) month period; and
- e. if the applicant intends to work on horses belonging to the general public he/she must at all times remain under the supervision of a named ATF in relation to their workmanship and professional conduct. (See 'Farrier, ATF and Apprentice Code of Professional Conduct')

8. Visas

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that, where necessary, they have the appropriate visa to enable them to enter and remain in the UK for the purpose and duration of their visit. The FRC accepts no liability for persons who choose to travel without the correct visa.

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

9. Fees

For 2026 the fees for a Fixed Term Temporary Licence are:

- One week £ 90.00
- Three months £183.00
- Six months £305.00

Fees change annually so applicants are advised to check with the FRC before making an application.

Making an Application

10. Applicants wishing to submit an application for a Fixed Term Temporary Licence must in advance of travel;
 - a. If they are applying from outside the UK, apply and secure, the correct visa for the nature and duration of their intended visit to the UK, if appropriate. Please be aware that this process can take up to three (3) weeks and applicants are advised to engage early with UK Visas and Immigration Department via <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa> . The earliest an application may be made is up to three (3) months before you travel.

Return the following to the FRC:

- b. Complete the Fixed Term Temporary Licence application form in full, in English.
- c. Provide proof of identity in the form of a photocopy of the identity page and the outer cover of the applicant's passport.
- d. Provide a copy of visa issued, if appropriate
- e. Submit **two (2)** statements supporting that they have been regularly and gainfully engaged in shoeing horses for at least **two (2)** years. These must be from a Veterinary Surgeon and Accountant if self-employed, or from a Veterinary Surgeon and from an Employer if employed, and be signed, dated and written on the originator's headed paper. All supporting statements must be accompanied by certified translations into English where necessary.
- f. Provide details of farriery training and examinations undertaken.
- g. Provide copies of farriery qualification documents, if any.
- h. Submit a letter from the sponsor Approved Training Farrier (ATF) confirming he or she is willing to support the application, and will act as the supervising farrier for the applicant. (See Paragraph 7a)
- i. Provide a letter from the employer or sponsoring organisation confirming the nature of the employment or event, where applicable.
- j. The submission of additional references from clients may assist the consideration of the application.
- k. Submit the required fee.

Applicants should allow for the processing of a temporary licence application by the FRC to take up to three (3) weeks at peak times. Applicants are therefore encouraged to engage with the Council before commitment to any travel plans.

11. It is an offence for any person to procure registration by a fraudulent representation or declaration of any kind. The FRC may refer to the police or other relevant prosecution authorities any applicant where it is suspected that a false or fraudulent statement has been made for the purposes of obtaining a temporary licence. The FRC reserves the right to contact any person it considers necessary in order to verify the accuracy of information given.

12. In order to reduce administration and costs it is important that applications are accurate and complete. If an incomplete application is received, or an application that is not supported by the appropriate documentation is received, it will be rejected and returned to the applicant. Applicants may however re-submit the same documentation, together with the additional information or correction needed as a new application if they wish. A new fee may be payable in such circumstances.
13. Once an application has been checked and found to be correct, if the licence is granted, the applicant will be sent a letter confirming the terms of their temporary licence. Once received the applicant will be able to carry out farriery under the conditions specified in the letter. A copy of the letter will also be sent to the sponsoring ATF and the employer or sponsoring organisation as required.

How your Information will be used

14. The information contained in your application will assist the FRC to process your application as quickly as possible. We may check your information with any referees, Approved Training Farriers (ATFs) or any employers named in support of your application. We may also check with the body that awarded your farriery qualification in your home state and with UK Visas and Immigration Department in relation to the terms of your visa.
15. When a Fixed Term Temporary licence is issued the applicant's name and the terms of the licence will be published in the FRC publication, The Farriers Bulletin.

Appeals against any decision not to grant a Fixed Term Temporary Licence

16. An appeal against a decision made by the FRC in respect of an application made under the procedures set out in this Guide should be submitted to the FRC's Policy and Finance Committee by writing to the Registrar of the FRC stating the reasons for appeal. An appeal must be lodged within fourteen (14) days of the notification of a decision by the FRC.

Warning

17. Applicants may not engage in any farriery within GB until they have been notified in writing that their application for a Fixed Term Temporary Licence has been approved by the FRC. Issue of a licence entitles the holder to practice farriery within GB under supervision, without being subject to potential prosecution by the FRC for unlawful farriery when doing so. It is not an alternative to securing a visa or meeting UK Immigration Regulations. Applicants should visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-come-to-the-uk> for more information on applying for a visa. For the avoidance of doubt, a temporary licence issued by the FRC provides no defence to animal welfare (or any other) offences that may be committed during the course of practising under the licence.