

The Farriers Registration Council



Established under the
Farriers (Registration) Act 1975

GUIDE TO REGISTRATION FOR FARRIERS QUALIFYING IN GB AND IN THE BRITISH ARMY

Issued by:

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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

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 prescribed terms and conditions for farriers wishing to apply for Registration in Part 1 of the Register of Farriers based on completion of farriery training within GB (e.g. as an Enrolled Apprentice or within the British Army).

This Guide sets out the FRC's procedures for the registration of farriers who wish to work permanently in GB, or undertake temporary work, farrier training, farrier-related work experience or participate in farriery competitions 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; 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.”

UK Qualifications and Candidate Requirements for Registration

3. **Apprenticeship commenced post 1 September 2019** - 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;
 - Successful completion of the End Point Assessment (EPA)
 - Entry and completion of the Apprenticeship in Farriery includes a requirement to have achieved 5 GCSE's at Grade C, to include English, Mathematics and a Science subject, or equivalent.
4. 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 Apprenticeship may be obtained from any of the Colleges.
5. In addition to the educational entry requirements Enrolled Farrier Apprentices are expected to uphold the reputation of the profession of Farriery throughout the duration of their training. Failure to maintain good conduct throughout the Apprenticeship may impact the ability of a candidate to gain entry to the Register of Farriers on the completion of their training (See section 16)

UK Applications for Registration

6. Applications for registration may be made by persons who;
 - a) have completed such conditions as to an apprenticeship or training, or both, as the Council may prescribe;
 - b) have completed a course of training as a farrier within The British Army and passed a prescribed assessment / examination;
 - c) have at any time completed the current requirements for registration but have not previously registered with the Council.

Making an Application

7. Applicants must complete the form relevant to their type of application; provide the appropriate supporting documents; pay the appropriate fee and submit the papers to the Registrar at the FRC Offices. If an applicant chooses to mail their application papers they are advised to do so by recorded mail or special delivery.
8. Under the Farriers (Registration) Act 1975 it is an offence for any person to procure a false or fraudulent representation or declaration of any kind. The FRC reserves the right to contact any person it considers necessary in order to verify the accuracy of information given.
9. If an incomplete application is received the applicant will be informed in writing that the application is not considered acceptable, with reasons. If no written response is received from the applicant within one (1) calendar month of this written notification all documentation will be returned to the applicant and the application will be void. Applicants may however re-submit the same documentation, together with the additional information or correction needed, as a new application if they wish.
10. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application in writing and may be invited to attend the FRC office for a briefing on relevant legislative requirements and regulatory matters. If any part of this Guide is unclear please contact the FRC for further assistance.

Visas

11. Those applicants who may not be UK passport holders are advised to ensure they have the necessary visa to undertake paid employment in the UK prior to making an application.

How your Information will be used

12. The information contained in your application will assist the FRC to process your application for registration 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, if applicable. We may also check with the body that awarded your farriery qualification.
13. At the point of registration your name, address, qualifications, telephone numbers, e-mail address, website (where given) and date of entry onto the Register will be entered in the FRC Database. The Register is made available in an abbreviated format on the FRC website.

Requirements to be a Registered Farrier

14. Registered Farriers in GB are regulated by the FRC and are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements set out in the 'Farrier, Approved Training Farrier and Apprentice Code of Professional Conduct' - this publication is available to view at www.farrier-reg.gov.uk. The Guide describes the principles of good farriery practice, standards of competence, care and conduct expected of Registered Farriers in all aspects of their professional work. Breaches of these rules may result in farriers being removed from the Register of Farriers. Farriers should also be aware of and comply with relevant national legislation, including the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
15. Registered Farriers are required to;
 - pay an annual Retention Fee to maintain their registration
 - to submit an annual return of contact details, insurance details (see below) and any criminal convictions or police cautions that are not deemed as spent for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

- to hold suitable Professional (Business) Indemnity Insurance to cover their professional activities
- to carry out Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and to continue their professional education by keeping up to date with the developments in farriery, and to keep their knowledge and skills up to date throughout their working life

Criminal Offences and Serious Professional Misconduct

16. If an applicant has undeclared and unspent convictions or cautions received during their Apprenticeship or training, these may later be considered as possible Serious Professional Misconduct (SPM) by the FRC, once the applicant has registered. In these circumstances a Registered Farrier may be referred to the Council's Investigating Committee, and perhaps Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee has the ultimate power to remove a person from the Register of Farriers if it concludes the profession has been bought into disrepute. It is therefore extremely important that Apprentice and trainee Farriers are honest and open with the FRC throughout their Apprenticeship or training in advance of application for registration.

Appeals against non-Registration

17. 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 Disciplinary 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 date on the notification letter informing an applicant of a decision by the FRC.

Warning

18. Applicants may not engage in farriery in GB until they have been notified in writing that they have been entered in the Register of Farriers. Entry to the Register of Farriers allows an individual to lawfully practice farriery within GB, it is not an alternative to securing a visa or meeting the UK Immigration Regulations required for residency or to work within the UK. (See <https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-come-to-the-uk> for more information on applying for a visa).

FEES (as at 1 January 2026)

(Fees are reviewed annually)

19. The preferred method of payment for application fees is by electronic payment. Payments may be made by either Credit/Debit card over the telephone, BACS (bank transfer) or via the FRC website (Sage Pay). The following fees are indicative and are subject to change. Other fees may be payable for training dependent upon the circumstances. Additional expense can be incurred in processing some applications and the FRC reserves the right to impose additional fees in individual cases if the costs are higher than normal.

- **Registration and Retention Fee (Procedure A and B)**

Registration Fee - This is the initial cost of registration and is payable on application by those applying under Procedure A or B. **£257.00**

Retention Fee - This fee is for the annual renewal of the registration and is payable no later than the 31 December of each year. **£514.00**

Qualifications recognised by the FRC for automatic entry in the Register of Farriers

20. The FRC recognises the following farriery qualifications for automatic registration purposes:

Examining / Assessor Body	Qualification / Course of Training
Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF)	End Point Assessment (EPA) ; completed at the end of the Apprenticeship in Farriery - <i>(for Apprentices who commenced training after 1 September 2019 and who have passed the EPA up to and including 5 October 2023).</i>
End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) – Vetskill Limited	End Point Assessment (EPA) - QFS (Qualified to Farrier Standard) ; completed at the end of the Apprenticeship in Farriery - <i>(for Apprentices who have completed training and passed the EPA after 5 October 2023).</i>
Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF)	WCF Diploma in Farriery ; (also known as the Diploma of the WCF or DipWCF); [or the Registered Shoeing Smith (RSS) until October 1979]; awarded following completion of the Apprenticeship in Farriery or approved equivalent recognised by the FRC - <i>(for Apprentices who have completed training up to and including 5 October 2023).</i>
British Army	Certified Military Farrier (CMF) ; formerly known as Military Farrier Class II until March 2006. Completed at the end of the Army Course of Training, including award of the Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DipWCF) - <i>(for candidates who have completed training up to and including 5 October 2023).</i>
British Army	Certified Military Farrier (CMF) ; Completed at the end of the Army Course of Training known as the Intermediate Military Farrier Course (IMFC), <i>(for candidates who have completed training after 5 October 2023).</i>
American Farriers Association	Certified Journeyman Farrier (CJF) ; plus two years subsequent experience regularly and gainfully engaged in the shoeing of horses outside GB - <i>(for candidates who have completed qualification up to and including 1 December 2025).</i>

21. Applicants who have completed the EPA and/or hold the 'DipWCF' (*up to and including 5 October 2023*) or who have achieved the EPA QFS after 5 October 2023 following regulated farriery training in GB may apply to the FRC for registration in the Register of Farriers in line with the appropriate procedures that follow in this Guide. **(Procedure A)**
22. Applicants who have completed the Army 'CMF' course of training in GB and have been awarded the DipWCF (*up to and including 5 October 2023*) or have achieved the 'CMF' post 5 October 2023, may apply to the FRC for registration in the Register of Farriers in line with the appropriate procedures that follow in this Guide. **(Procedure B)**
23. Those applying on the basis of holding the 'CJF' examination (*completed up to and including 1 December 2025*) or 'DipWCF' examination (*up to and including 5 October 2023*) achieved outside GB should refer to the procedures detailed with the Council's '**Guide to Registration by Overseas Farriers**'.

Procedure A: Initial Registration upon Completion of the Apprenticeship in Farriery

For applicants who have completed the UK Apprenticeship in Farriery

24. Apprentices are entitled to Register upon completion of the Apprenticeship in Farriery; including:

- Successful completion of the End Point Assessment (EPA)
- Entry and completion of the Apprenticeship in Farriery includes a requirement to have achieved 5 GCSE's at Grade C, to include English, Mathematics and a Science subject, or equivalent.

25. To make an application the following documentation is required by the Council:

<i>Documentation:</i>	<i>Action Required:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed Registration Application Form	<i>To be completed by the applicant and returned to the FRC during Block 8 at College</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation that all aspects of the Apprenticeship in Farriery have been successfully completed	<i>To be provided by the College to the FRC immediately after the completion of the EPA results are issued by the EPAO.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Registration Fee	<i>Payable by the applicant to the FRC by debit/credit card over the telephone, once the FRC has received written notification of Apprenticeship completion from the college</i>

Procedure B: Initial Registration upon Completion of British Army Farriery Training

For applicants who have completed the Certified Military Farrier course within the British Army

26. Army trainees are entitled to Register upon completion of the Certified Military Farrier (CMF) Course.
27. To make an application the following documentation is required by the Council:

<i>Documentation:</i>	<i>Action Required:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed Registration Application Form	<i>To be completed by the applicant and returned to the FRC</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Confirmation that all aspects of the 'Certified Military Farrier' Course have been successfully completed and the EPA Standard achieved	<i>To be provided by the Army to the FRC immediately after the completion of the course</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Registration Fee	<i>Payable by the applicant to the FRC by debit/credit card over the telephone; once the Army has provided the completion information required to the FRC</i>

Other Organisations involved in Farriery within GB

- **The Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF)** – www.wcf.org.uk
- **Vetskill Limited** - End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) - www.vetskill.com
- **The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (BFBA)** - www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/bfba/index.htm
- **Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College**
School of Farriery
Centre for Rural Crafts
Holme Lacy Campus
Holme Lacy
Hereford
HR2 6LL

Tel: 01432 870316
www.hlcollege.ac.uk
- **Myerscough College**
Myerscough College
Myerscough Hall
Bilsborrow
Lancashire
PR3 0RY

Tel: 01995 640611
www.myerscough.ac.uk
- **Warwickshire College Group**
Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell
Moreton Morrell
Warwick
CV35 9BL

Tel: 0330 135 6434
www.warwickshire.ac.uk
- **The Defence Animal Training Regiment**
Asfordby Road
Melton Mowbray
Leicestershire
LE13 0GX

Farriery training within the British Army is for serving military personnel only.