

## Overview of the role

### Making and repairing saddlery products

#### Standard in development

#### L3: Bespoke Saddler

##### Title of occupation

Bespoke Saddler

##### UOS reference number

ST0328

##### Core and options

No

##### Option title/s

##### Level of occupation

Level 3

##### Route

Creative and design

##### Typical duration of apprenticeship

24 months

##### Target date for approval

01/01/0001

##### Resubmission

No

##### Would your proposed apprenticeship standard replace an existing framework?

No

##### Does professional recognition exist for the occupation?

No

## Occupation summary

This occupation is found in the fashion & textiles sector, an integral part of the equine industry and is fundamental in the saddlery trade. There are 27 million people in Britain with an interest in the equestrian industry.

Bespoke Saddlers supply saddlery products for many professional equestrian sports such as horseracing, eventing, dressage and show jumping but also cater for the amateur rider.

Most Bespoke saddlers also offer a repair and restoration service as well as having an appreciation of the saddlery fitting process.

Finished saddlery products are key to equine welfare and must meet health and safety requirements as well as fitting both rider and horse comfortably.

Most employers are based in a rural setting and classified as micro businesses.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to produce a range of hand-crafted saddlery products such as saddles, bridles or harnesses from leather to specific measurements for both horse and rider. Additional fittings and materials can be used also.

Preparatory duties include confirming customer order requirements to produce a bespoke specification to then produce a standard or bespoke product that is cut and made to a unique pattern or measurement for a horse. The skills involved in producing saddlery products cover a wide area of expertise that includes craft, technical, creative and design.

Bespoke Saddlers implement a variety of hand craft practical skills in the manufacture of saddlery products including measuring, pattern construction, cutting, hand and machine stitching and finishing. Based in a workshop, Bespoke Saddlers may have to sit or stand for long periods of time at a bench whilst working.

Typical working week is around 37 hours a week, from Monday to Friday but could occasionally work overtime, which could include weekends.

In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with other work colleagues, customers and end users. The level of interaction and responsibilities with external organisations would be dependent on whether the Bespoke Saddler is self-employed or an employee of a company.

In most cases they will work independently and be responsible for attaining orders and may also come into contact with external suppliers of leather, fittings, materials and other accessories.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for carrying out hand craft practical skills in order to produce saddlery products that fit precisely to a customer's requirements. These skills are fundamental to the Bespoke Saddlery industry and ultimately have to be employed with great precision, to high standards of excellence and within realistic time constraints and are central to the efficiency and effectiveness of manufacture.

As an example, once the leather has been selected, little can be done to rectify mistakes and such errors will lead to problems at the assembly stage. Minimising loss of time and waste is key. All work must be completed in line with health, safety and environmental regulations and follow workplace safety rules in the workshop at all times.

A Bespoke Saddler may work alone self-employed or more occasionally work in a larger workshop where the different stages are shared between several saddlers.

## Typical job titles

- Equestrian equipment repairer
- Horse equipment maker
- Saddle producer
- Saddler

## Are there any statutory/regulatory or other typical entry requirements?

No

## Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
<b>Duty 1</b> Record customer requirements and convert the information gathered to produce a working specification of cut and made-up measurements.	K1
Communicate with customer to agree the bespoke specification.	S1 S7 B3
<b>Duty 2</b> Assess and evaluate the bespoke specification for the Bridle and Saddle to be made. As examples, specifications, style, quality, size, colour and timeline.	K7 K12 K15 K17 S1 S6
<b>Duty 3</b> Source leather, materials and ancillary fittings to confirm availability, provide a quotation and agree final costs with the customer.	K4 K6 K14 S3 S7 S13 B3
<b>Duty 4</b> Create the necessary patterns.	K17 S2
<b>Duty 5</b> Throughout the production process, continually identify faults that may lead to saddle and bridle fitting problems and report findings and recommendations to improve them.	K11 K16 S16 S21 S24 B2
<b>Duty 6</b> Select the appropriate tools and machinery to manufacture Bespoke Bridle and Saddle production activity to achieve quality within given timescales.	K2 K18 S3 S4
<b>Duty 7</b> Select leather, materials and ancillary fittings for the Bespoke Bridle and Saddle specification and report any shortages or quality issues.	K12 S3 S15

## DUTY

## KSBS

<b>Duty 8</b> Prepare and test hand tools, sewing machine, bench splitter and other equipment to enable the formation of the required bespoke components. For example, different types of leathers, threads, fittings and other materials.	K2 K18 K21 S4 S9 S14
<b>Duty 9</b> Produce and/or repair saddlery products that meet both specification and customer requirements.	K2 K9 K10 K12 K13 K19 K22 K23 S4 S11 S12 S13 S15 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22 S23 S24 B1 B4 B5
<b>Duty 10</b> Communicate and report issues internally throughout the production process which impact quality, quantity and meeting deadlines.	K8 S8 S13
<b>Duty 11</b> Inspect finished saddlery product against quality standards and bespoke specification.	K22 S10 S25
<b>Duty 12</b> Complete work documentation, communicating as needed with colleagues. For example, production sheets and job cards.	K5 S5
<b>Duty 13</b> Investigate requests for repairs/restoration to used saddlery products to assess viability and suggest remedies. For example, component wear, breakage, asymmetry, stretch, poor stitching, adjustments to improve fit.	K3 K20 S12 B1 B4
<b>Duty 14</b> Identify welfare and safety issues for both horse and rider.	K3 K11 K15 K16 S24 S25 B2

## KSBS

### Knowledge

**K1:** How to interpret industry terminology.

**K2:** The tools and machinery used in the manufacture of saddlery products.

**K3:** How to decide if a repair/restoration is viable in terms of safety and cost.

**K4:** How to organise purchasing of materials and stock control.

**K5:** How to keep accurate records relating to the sale, manufacture and repair of saddlery products.

**K6:** The importance of effective customer service. For example, liaising on product suitability to agree specifications for bespoke products.

**K7:** A range of saddlery products their type and suitability of style to individual customers. For example, saddles, bridles and other ancillary products.

**K8:** The importance of timely workflow to the business.

- K9:** The manufacturing processes for bridles and other saddlery equipment.
- K10:** The manufacturing processes for saddles.
- K11:** The impact of their product and work on saddle and bridle fitting.
- K12:** The characteristics and behaviours of a variety of different leathers, materials, threads and fittings for their suitable application.
- K13:** The manufacturing processes of wooden saddle trees.
- K14:** Alternative technical advances in materials and construction.
- K15:** How to interpret conformation relating to the anatomy of the horse to produce a bespoke fit.
- K16:** The impact of their product and work on the welfare of the horse and safety of the rider.
- K17:** How to interpret measurements of the horse to create a cutting list for cut and made up measurement including all necessary patterns.
- K18:** How to maintain and safely use tools, equipment and machinery.
- K19:** Material requirements for manufacture and the order of cost effective assembly.
- K20:** The balance between hand stitching to a high standard in an acceptable time and cost to the business.
- K21:** Processes to adjust machines to sew a variety of differing materials. For example, specialist needles, feet, guides and tension setting.
- K22:** How to implement saddlery hand skills to produce a finish that meets a high quality standard.
- K23:** The style and size of hole in relation to the fittings required for the saddlery product.

## Skills

- S1:** Assess given measurements from the horse to produce a cutting list showing both cut and made-up measurements, the amount of leather and fittings required.
- S2:** Produce the patterns for the saddlery product(s) in readiness to cut material components.
- S3:** Safely select, use, maintain and store equipment and materials; for example, correct storage of patterns, sharpening tools, purchasing materials and stock control.
- S4:** Identify and minimise hazards and risks in the workplace to maintain work procedures ensuring health and safety requirements are met.
- S5:** Maintain comprehensive records relating to the manufacture and repair of saddlery.
- S6:** Discuss and advise on the type of leather for a specific use.
- S7:** Carry out effective customer care.
- S8:** Develop and maintain good communication skills with colleagues in order to ensure a productive work environment.
- S9:** Prepare materials and fittings for the saddlery product.
- S10:** Have overall responsibility for the finish and suitability of the completed saddlery product.
- S11:** Follow clear instructions from relevant colleagues in order to meet customer requirements.
- S12:** (When repairing a saddlery product), assess product and implement the appropriate method to remedy the problem.
- S13:** Implement efficient and effective use of resources, time and materials.
- S14:** Select, prepare and test tools and machinery, including adjustments for different leathers, materials and fittings.
- S15:** Identify the correct materials, threads and fittings for the task and use in accordance with both customer requirements and company processes.
- S16:** Recognise faults in leather, materials, threads and fittings.
- S17:** During manufacture implement technical processes. For example, cut, edge, stain, crease, punch, prick mark and skive all components where necessary and applicable.
- S18:** Assemble components in order of the manufacturing process in readiness for stitching.
- S19:** When hand stitching saddlery products, double hand and single/back stitch where appropriate for appearance and durability.
- S20:** Machine stitch a variety of different materials used in bridle and saddle manufacture.

**S21:** (When bridle making), recrease and block all keepers as necessary.  
**S22:** Punch the correct size and style of hole for the fittings required for the saddlery product.  
**S23:** Clean and polish all edges.  
**S24:** (When saddle making), flock panels smoothly, evenly and to the correct specification.  
**S25:** Assemble completed saddlery product, maintaining the quality of hand craft skills and ensuring functionality.

## **Behaviours**

**B1:** Commitment to maintaining high standards of precision and excellence.  
**B2:** Awareness and empathy to the effect of poorly fitted saddlery items to the horse.  
**B3:** Focus on the requirements of the customer.  
**B4:** Strong work ethic and commitment in order to meet the standards required.  
**B5:** Recognition and appreciation of equality and diversity in the workplace.

## **Qualifications**

### **English & Maths**

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the End-Point Assessment. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprenticeship's English and maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. A British Sign Language (BSL) qualification is an alternative to the English qualification for those whose primary language is BSL.

### **Does the apprenticeship need to include any mandated qualifications in addition to the above-mentioned English and maths qualifications?**

Yes

### **Other mandatory qualifications**

City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Saddlery (Saddle and Bridle pathways)

Level: 3

Additional information: All apprentices must complete both the Saddle and Bridle Pathways of this qualification.

## **Professional recognition**

This standard aligns with the following professional recognition:

- The Society of Master Saddlers (SMS) for Intermediate Saddler

## **Involved employers**

Cirencester Saddlers, Saddlers Den, Windsor and Henley Bridles, Garrett Saddlers, Fitted saddles, Bearhouse Saddlers, Equicraft Saddlery, A E Batchelor & Son, Woolcroft Equine Services, Saddlery & Gun Room, Society of Master Saddlers, UKFT

## Consultation

- The revised Level 3 Bespoke Saddler Apprenticeship Standard has been developed during 2021 by the Trailblazer Group supported by UKFT as secretariat.
- In order to gain wider industry support and comments, the draft Standard was consulted with the industry via the Society of Master Saddlers website.
- This consultation was open from the 8th December 2021 running for one calendar month.

## Progression Routes

Upon completion of this Standard apprentices receive an invitation to apply for Society of Master Saddlers (SMS) membership as 'Intermediate Saddler'. Once a minimum of four years' industry experience has been completed that award will be upgraded to the 'Individual Qualified Saddler' category of membership.

**Further vocational study** - City and Guilds Qualification in Harness Making (Level 3)

**Customised industry training** - Offered by City and Guilds (owned by the SMS) Saddle Flocking and Flocking Adjustment, Bridle Fitting and Saddle Fitting. This can then lead to individuals upgrading their SMS status to Qualified Harness Maker, Registered Qualified Bridle Fitter, Registered Qualified Saddle Fitter. With a further three years' industry experience with recommendation individuals can upgrade their SMS status to Master level as a Saddler, Harness Maker, Bridle Fitter or Saddle Fitter.

**Workplace** - Having achieved the Bespoke Saddler apprenticeship and with further experience other opportunities within the trade are achievable. Roles such as becoming a trainer/assessor, workshop supervisor or manager.

The opportunity to diversify to a wider leather goods product range can be investigated as well as repair and restoration specialisms.

## Supporting uploads

**Mandatory qualification uploads**

**Professional body confirmation uploads**

## Notice period

30 days

30 days has been chosen to allow both the sole Training Provider and EPAO to update documentation and prepare to cover all areas of the new version of the Standard.