



**Thematic Area:** Socio-economic performance.

**Priority:** How can working conditions be improved?

**Need:** How to improve safety at work; What are the best safety practices to implement on a farm.

**Solution EU Number:** WC-18.

**Content of the Solution:**

Implementation of personal protective equipment to prevent injuries and accident.

**Key Contacts:**

- MSA (for France), Insurance, Work Health and Safety services from your country.

**Case Study:** Not available.

### Reasons for Implementing this Solution

The implementation of personal protective equipment (PPE) on equine farms is essential to prevent injuries and accidents. PPE are devices or means intended to be worn or held by a person in order to protect them against one or more risks likely to threaten their health or safety. It protects employees from typical risks such as kicks, falls or chafing injuries and thus contributes to a safer and more efficient working environment.

### Description of Solution Strategies

Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) on equine farms is essential to minimize the risk of injury. The following examples measures should be implemented consistently:

- Safe footwear: stable staff and other employees should wear sturdy, non-slip shoes or boots with steel toecaps to prevent injuries from kicking.
- Head protection: Appropriate safety helmets should be worn by all those at potential risk of head injury - especially riders, grooms and those working with stallions at stud. Helmets must be correctly fitted and secured.
- Back and body protection: When riding young horses or in other high-risk situations, protective vests or back and body protectors are recommended.
- Hand protection: Gloves protect against chafing and burns that can be caused by holding lead ropes or lunges. Also wearing gloves for veterinary treatments.
- Visibility: Anyone working at dusk or in poor visibility conditions should wear reflective clothing or materials to make them more visible.
- PPE are provided free of charge by the employer and is not considered a benefit in kind. The employer is also obliged to maintain PPE in a state of compliance with technical regulations. Whether manufactured in your country or imported, PPE is one of the products subject to “CE” marking.

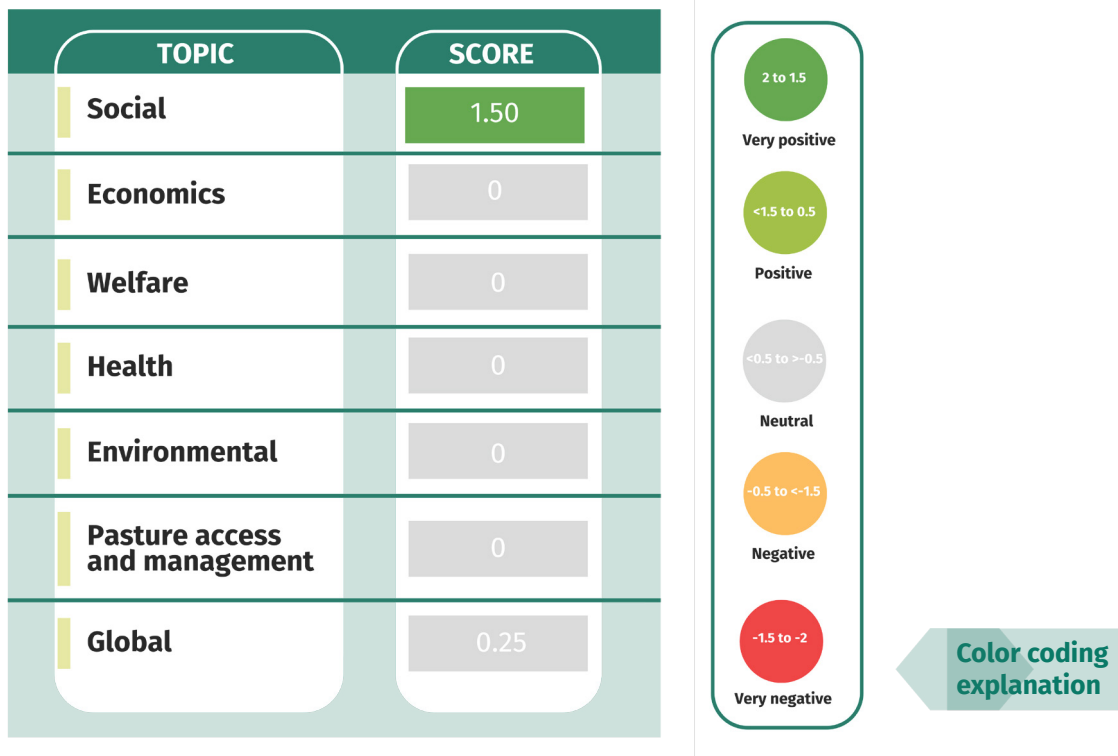
- “CE marking”: CE marking is mandatory for PPE. It was created as part of European technical harmonization legislation. It is the manufacturer’s visible undertaking that its product meets the regulatory requirements for free circulation throughout the European Union. CE marking is affixed to the product itself, or to the packaging or accompanying document.

### Implementation Steps

1. Procurement of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):
  - a) Determining the need for protective equipment for various activities.
  - b) Selecting high-quality PPE that meets safety standards.
  - c) Providing the necessary equipment to all relevant employees.
2. Providing information on the benefits of using PPE:
  - a) Training and instruction on the protective functions of the individual PPE elements.
  - b) Highlighting specific accident risks and how PPE can prevent injuries.
  - c) Promoting acceptance through practical demonstrations and field reports.
3. Enforcing the use of PPE in everyday working life:
  - a) Establishing clear rules on the obligation to wear certain PPE in defined work areas.
4. Regular inspection & maintenance.
  - a) PPE should be checked for wear and damage at regular intervals.
  - b) Defective or worn equipment must be replaced in good time.
5. Define responsibilities:
  - a) Define clear responsibilities for the procurement, control and training of PPE use.
  - b) Safety officers or team leaders can act as contact persons for PPE issues.
6. Feedback & improvement:
  - a) Actively ask employees about their experiences with PPE and take up suggestions for improvement.
  - b) Adapt PPE equipment to changing working conditions or new safety standards.



### How Will this Solution Impact the Performance of your Farm ?



**Socioeconomics:** This solution will support the social performance of your farm because, even if the economic performance score appears neutral, the positive impact of preventing additional costs in case of accidents—costs avoided by wearing PPE—is undeniable. The neutral score may result from balancing potential economic benefits with the cost of equipping staff and the time required for training, but the overall benefit remains evident.

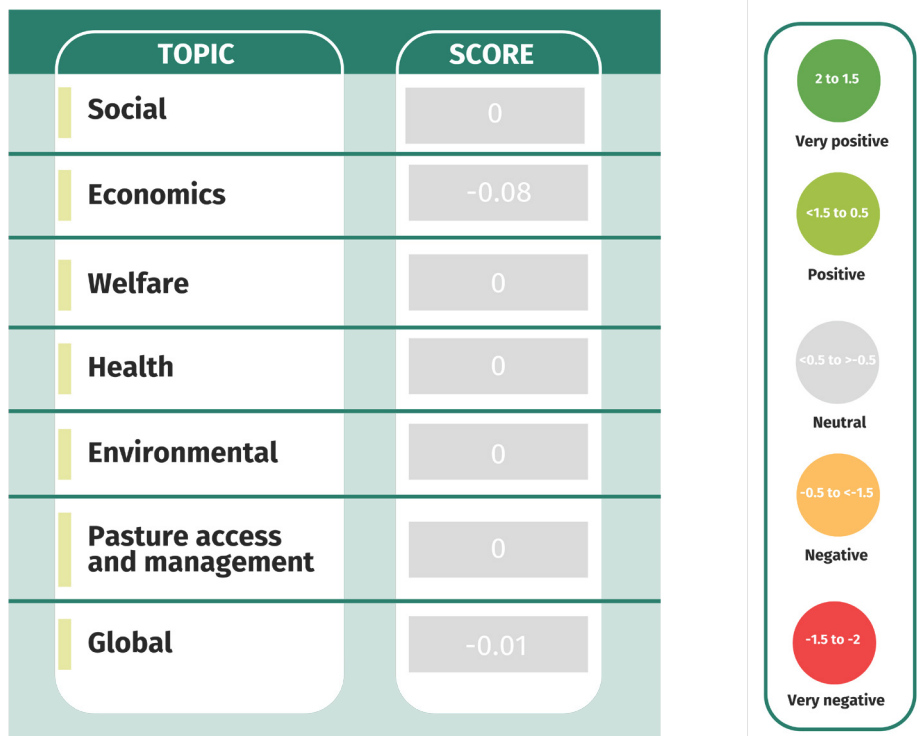


**Health & Welfare:** This solution has no direct effect on the health and welfare of horses. However, the employees of the farm using the personal protection are more secure and self-confident when handling the horses. Self-confident handlers may provide calmer, and then less stressful conditions for horses.



**Environmental Sustainability:** This solution has no direct effect on the performance of the farm on environmental sustainability or pasture management.

### How Will this Solution Impact the Resilience of your Farm?



**Socioeconomics:** This solution won't have any direct effect on the socio-economic performance of the farm facing external challenges. We can nevertheless advise that the use of PPE remains one of the budget's priorities, whatever the situation.



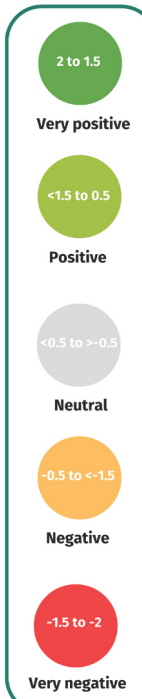
**Health & Welfare:** This solution has no direct effect on the health and welfare of horses facing external challenges as it doesn't secure better maintenance, positive emotional state or protects from pain, mortality and the reduction of curative medication.



**Environmental Sustainability:** This solution has no effect on farm's ability to recover in terms of environmental sustainability facing external challenges.

### How Can this Solution Help your Farm Cope with Specific External Challenges to Become More Resilient?

CHALLENGES	SCORE
Inflation	0
Pandemic	-0.08
High welfare standard	0
High infectious diseases	0
Extreme weather event	0
Loss/limited access to grassland	-0.01





**Inflation & Social Crises:** This solution won't have any effect on the global performance of the farm facing inflation, while new equipment may become more expensive in this case, the prevention of very high costs—such as those resulting from accidents— remains crucial. The neutral score can be explained by the balance between these avoided costs and the rising expenses of PPE due to inflation. There is no direct effect in the event of a pandemic either, but the use of PEPs remains essential, especially where access to care may be limited.



**Welfare & Diseases:** This solution has no direct effect on the global performance of the farm facing high welfare standards or infectious diseases on horses.



**Climate Change & Access to Land:** This solution has no effect on farm's ability to recover in terms of extreme weather event (abnormally high or low temperatures, excessive raining, drought) or loss/limited access to grassland. The usage of PPE during extreme weather conditions can be more uncomfortable than normally.

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

## Cost-Benefit Analysis

### Costs

#### Socioeconomics:

- Acquisition costs for PPE: helmets, protective vests, gloves, safety shoes - variable depending on quality.
- Replacement and maintenance costs: wear and tear on helmets, gloves and boots → regular replacement required.
- Wearing comfort: Possible restrictions (e.g. in extreme temperatures) → Acceptance problem.
- Time required for use: Can take time to put on and take off.
- Convince people to use PPE whenever necessary to prevent accidents.

#### Health & Welfare:

- No effect.

#### Environmental Sustainability :

- Material and energy consumption: many PPE products are made of plastics (helmets, protectors) or synthetic fibers (gloves, vests) and requires energy and causes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions → high consumption of resources during production.



### Benefits

- Reduced risk of injury: fewer accidents at work → lower costs for treatment and downtime.
- Prevention saves costs: accidents cause high direct (medical) and indirect (loss of productivity) costs.
- Employee satisfaction: A greater sense of security can increase employee motivation and satisfaction, which can lead to better work performance.
- Reduction in insurance premiums: By using PPE, the company could pay lower insurance premiums as the risk of accidents is reduced.
- Legal costs: Savings by avoiding possible legal consequences or fines due to accidents at work.



- Safe guidance and handling: PPE (e.g. gloves) can help to keep slippery ropes safer → fewer accidents
- Avoiding stress for horses: calmer handling thanks to better protected and safer employees.



- PPE material selection: environmentally friendly, durable materials reduce waste.
- Durability vs. disposable products: High-quality PPE has a longer service life → less environmental impact.
- Recycling & reuse: components made from recycled materials could promote sustainability.

### Costs

- Waste & disposal: Worn or damaged PPE must be replaced → Materials that are difficult to recycle, such as composites, increase waste.
- Transportation emissions: PPE is often produced internationally → long supply chains and CO<sub>2</sub> pollution from transportation.

### Cooperation between farms:

- No effect.

### Benefits

- Sharing & second-hand options: Protective vests or helmets in good condition could be passed on or reused.
- Local production: PPE from regional manufacturers reduces transportation emissions and supports the local economy.
- Proper care & maintenance: Extends the life of PPE (e.g. cleaning of gloves, dry storage of protective helmets) → reduces the need for new purchases.
- Collective orders for PPE: cost reduction through joint procurement with other companies.





# Technical Sheet for Solution Implementation

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

### Additional Resources

#### Websites

- <https://www.scotlandshelthyanimals.scot/disease-avoidance/farmers-and-livestock-keepers/how-you-can-avoid-disease/ppe-and-hygiene/>
- <https://extension.umn.edu/farm-safety/using-personal-protective-equipment-farm>
- <https://equipedia.ifce.fr/infrastructure-et-equipement/materiel/les-equipements-de-protection-individuelle-pour-les-professionnels-du-secteur-equin>

#### Model Companies/Trader

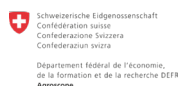
- International:
  - <https://www.equineindustry.eu/>
  - [uk.riding-hats-body-protectors](http://uk.riding-hats-body-protectors)
- Germany/Austria
  - <https://www.loesdau.de/reiter/sicherheit/>
  - <https://www.kraemer.de/Reitbekleidung/Sicherheitsbekleidung>

#### Publications

- Chapman M, Thompson K. Preventing and Investigating Horse-Related Human Injury and Fatality in Work and Non-Work Equestrian Environments: A Consideration of the Workplace Health and Safety Framework. *Animals* (Basel). 2016 May 6;6(5):33. doi: [10.3390/ani6050033](https://doi.org/10.3390/ani6050033)
- Sinclair-Williams (2015): „Health and safety in horse riding establishments and livery yards. What you should know.” Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. ISBN 978-1-910676-10-3. <https://www.cieh.org/media/1247/health-and-safety-in-horse-riding-establishments-and-livery-yards-what-you-should-know.pdf>

#### Further Information

- Guidelines for Personal Protective Equipment in Animal Facilities: [https://oacu.oir.nih.gov/system/files/media/file/2022-12/d2-Personal\\_Protective\\_Equipment.pdf](https://oacu.oir.nih.gov/system/files/media/file/2022-12/d2-Personal_Protective_Equipment.pdf)



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## Ideas to Animate a Workshop About the Solution

- Ask trader/advisor/company/ professional association specialized in personal protection equipment to sponsor the workshop
- Find a seminar room/model farm where the workshop can take place
- Complete the required tasks and let the participants take part in these demonstration tasks so that they can get to know the system

## Proposed Structure for the Workshop on Personal Protective Equipment in Horse Stables

### 1. Introduction to Personal Protective Equipment

- What is/are Personal Protective Equipment?
- Key features and components of Personal Protective Equipment (e.g. helmets, vests, gloves, material, quality).
- Types of Personal Protective Equipment available on the market (helmets, gloves, vests etc.).

### 2. Benefits of Personal Protective Equipment in Horse Stables

- Reduced risks of injuries.
- Fewer accidents at work.
- Improved safety for employees.
- Improving image by emphasizing safety aspects for employees.

### 3. Practical Applications on Horse Farms

- Determine the need for protective equipment for various activities.
- Selecting high-quality PPE that meets safety standards.
- Providing the necessary equipment for all relevant employees.
- Establishing clear rules on the obligation to wear certain PPE in defined work areas
- Regular checks and feedback discussions on compliance with safety measures.
- Define clear responsibilities for the procurement, control and training of PPE use.
- PPE should be checked for wear and damage at regular intervals.
- Defective or worn equipment must be replaced in good time.

### 4. How to Choose the most Suitable Personal Protection Equipment?

- Assessment of the needs of the company.
- Advice from representatives of the employers' liability insurance association/insurance companies or specialized dealers.
- Evaluation of features such as material, design, user-friendliness.
- Comparison of offers/prices.

### 5. Hands-On Demonstration

- Live demo of handling the Personal Protection Equipment
- Testing different (if available) models and giving participants a chance to try them out.



## 6. Maintenance and Troubleshooting

- Regular care and maintenance of the equipment.
- Repair/replacement of damaged materials/equipment.

## 7. Case Studies and Real-World Examples

- Examples of farms or equestrian centers using personal protective equipment.
- Discussion of how they have integrated these tools into their daily operations.
- Lessons learned and tips from farm operators who using this system.

## 8. Cost Analysis and Return on Investment (ROI)

- Acquisition costs vs. long-term cost savings due to less employee absenteeism.
- How to calculate ROI based on several aspects as reduction of insurance premiums, legal costs, reduced absenteeism, health benefits.

## 9. Q&A Session

- Open floor for participants to ask questions about specific concerns or experiences.
- Address any uncertainties regarding the effectiveness or cost of modular facilities.

## 10. Wrap-Up and Resources

- Summary of key points covered in the workshop.
- Additional resources for further learning (websites, suppliers, online communities).
- How to get access to special discounts or offers on personal protective equipment when working with suppliers.