

Horse Box Driver

Ancillary Services

Job Summary

Horse box drivers haul horses by truck in addition to flying them around the globe for racing, breeding and sales purposes. There are more than 30 horse transport companies in Ireland, with the majority offering both domestic & international transport services. In addition, these companies typically provide stabling, grooming, handling & insurance services.



Main Duties

- Planning & booking the animal's journey
- Preparing animal with necessary protection for transport
- Planning food & water for the duration of the journey
- Checking trailer & equipment for safety
- Loading animals
- Carefully hauling horses to their destination
- Making necessary stops to exercise and rest animals
- Feeding and care of their charge until reaching destination
- Booking necessary flights & transport at either end of the airports

Job Level

Specialist Support Role

Typical Employer

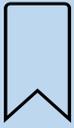
Transport Companies;



Case Study

Horse Transport

Transport is required both breeding and sales purposes. In 2016 more than 6,000 horses were exported from Ireland following sale or for breeding purposes, in addition to the thousands of overseas runners – hundreds of horses travelled to the Cheltenham and Aintree festivals from Ireland and Champion Flat trainer Aidan O'Brien alone sent more than 130 runners to the UK via Shannon Airport. This facility is particularly important in the international transit of Irish thoroughbreds, aided by the recent reintroduction of direct equine services to a number of locations. [Source: Economic Impact of Irish breeding and racing 2017]



Competencies (Behavioural)

- A love for horses, horse riding or horse racing is the No. 1 motivating factor why people work within the horse racing industry (HRI Education & Training Survey 2020);
- Intrapersonal skills (perseverance; initiative; self-motivation), Critical thinking skills (problem solving), Interpersonal skills (communication; teamwork);

Knowledge & Skills

Equine Knowledge & Skills

Horse care & welfare;
Equine transportation;
Equine nutrition, anatomy & physiology;
Horsemanship skills;

People Knowledge & Skills

Leadership & management skills;
Communication skills;
People management skill;
Health & safety regulations;
Staff welfare including safeguarding;
Self development;

Racing Knowledge & Skills

Racing industry knowledge;
Integrity of the sport;
Raceday operations;
Race planning/Racecourses and racing calendar;

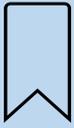
Business Knowledge & Skills

Business planning;
Admin, compliance & law;
I.T. / digital skills;

Education

To become a equine transport provider you are required under Department of Agriculture regulations to hold a certificate of competence in the transport of live animals. In addition to driving licence requirements, equine transport providers require horsemanship skills which can be gained by completing a 1 year course in horsemanship - Level 5 Horsemanship (Course Code 5M3371). See www.qualifax.ie for further information.

At the upper reaches of the profession, it helps to understand logistics and to be able to deal with changes and multiple tasks on the fly. Some horse haulers also assist with emergency transport during evacuations from wildfire and flooding.



Career Path (Alternative Careers)

- Travelling Head
- Stable Staff

Experience

Most people learn equine transport on the job, working as an assistant to others before opening their own businesses.

Job Availability

The volume of transport required and labour intensive nature of the industry support significant rural employment estimated as over 500 FTE.



Certification

Appropriate drivers licence certification and under the European Communities Regulations drivers of vehicles transporting horses on journeys over 65km are required to hold a in equine handling and logistics. Race is the assigned training and examinations provider in accordance with the Council Regulation for the transport of horses.

Working Conditions

Equine transporters haul horses by truck in addition to flying them around the globe.

Pay & Benefits

Generally, the amount of pay you receive for working is a matter of agreement between you and your employer. These negotiations normally occur when you receive a job offer.