

EQUINE LAMENESS PREVENTION ORGANIZATION

Certification Program - Overview

Category 1

Live Sole – Hoof Mapping Certification (LS-HM Certified) {50 Points Total}

1. **Practical Test {30 Points Possible}** (Criteria is as follows – see Protocol sheets for Details)
 - a. Work conducted on 2 Feet (1 front, 1 hind) – **30 Minute Time Limit**
 - b. Identify Hoof Deformities (*If Any Exist*)
 - c. Locate and Identify the Live Functional Sole
 - d. Accurately Map Out Each Foot
2. **Written Test {20 Points Possible}**
 - a. Test knowledge will include:
 - i. All Ways to Locate WPOTF
 - ii. Approximate Location of the Tip of the Coffin Bone
 - iii. Understanding Functional Sole Plane
 - iv. Recognize Deformities (From Drawings)
 - v. Recognizing Hoof Conformations
 - vi. Equine distal limb anatomy
 - vii. Identify all parts of the foot

Category 2

Certified Natural Balance Barefoot Trimmer (CNBBT) {75 Points Total}

1. **Practical Test {45 Points Possible}** (Criteria is as follows – see Protocol sheets for Details)
 - a. Work conducted on 1 Horse (all 4 feet) – **90 Minute Time Limit**
 - b. Pre-Trimming Evaluation: Determine Heel-First, Flat or Toe-First Landing; as well as overall comfort and soundness
 - c. Accurately accomplish all tasks of the LS-HM Certification (Appropriate Exfoliation & Complete Hoof Mapping)
 - d. Trim hoof for being left barefoot according the E.L.P.O. Hoof Trimming Protocol (*Study Criteria*)
 - e. Post-Trimming Evaluation: Determine Heel-First, Flat or Toe-First Landing; as well as overall comfort and soundness
2. **Written Test {30 Points Possible}**
 - a. Test knowledge will include:
 - i. All Items Previously covered in LS-HM Certification
 - ii. Full Understanding of trimming process
 - iii. Recognizing common pathologies or lameness issues
 - iv. Recommendations of barefoot horse husbandry
 - v. Equine distal limb anatomy
 - vi. Ethics/Professionalism

Category 3

Certified Natural Balance Farrier (CNBF) {110 Points Total}

1. **Practical Test {60 Points Possible}** (Criteria is as follows – see Protocol sheets for Details)
 - a. Work conducted on 1 Horse (all 4 feet) – **3 Hour Time Limit**
 - b. Pre-Shoeing Evaluation: Determine Heel-First, Flat or Toe-First Landing; as well as overall comfort and soundness
 - c. Accurately accomplish all tasks of the LS-HM Certification #1
 - d. Shoe the horse according the E.L.P.O. Shoeing Protocol (*Protocol Sheet*)
 - e. Post-Shoeing Evaluation: Determine Heel-First, Flat or Toe-First Landing; as well as overall comfort and soundness
2. **Written Test {35 Points Possible}**
 - a. Test knowledge will include:
 - i. All Items Previously covered in LS-HM Certification & CNBBT test
 - ii. Full understanding of shoeing process
 - iii. Identification of different hoof types (club, underrun, neg. plane, etc.)
 - i. Recognizing common pathologies or lameness issues
 - iv. Equine limb anatomy
 - v. Selection of proper shoe style, model, material
 - vi. Ethics/Professionalism
3. **Forging Skills Test {15 Points Possible}**
 - i. Modify keg shoe (St. Croix Eventer) to meet E.L.P.O. specifications
 - ii. Modify NB Front - *Narrow to fit broad-toed hind foot*
 - iii. Modify NB Hind - *Broaden to fit a boxy type front foot or broad-toed hind foot*
 - iv. Pull Quarter or Side Clips on a shoe of your choice

Category 4

Certified Lameness Specialist (CLS) {110 Points Total}

4. **Practical Test {80 Points Possible}** (Criteria is as follows – see Protocol sheets for Details)
 - a. Work conducted on 1 Lane Horse (all 4 feet) – **4 Hour Time Limit**
 - b. Pre-Shoeing Evaluation: Lameness Evaluation, Leverage Testing, Gait Analysis, Complete Data Collection Forms, etc.
 - c. Accurately accomplish all tasks of the LS-HM Certification #1
 - d. Hoof Preparation according the E.L.P.O. Trimming & Shoeing Protocol (*Protocol Sheets*)
 - e. Accurate application of treatment package required for lameness issue
 - f. Post-Shoeing Evaluation: Lameness Evaluation, Gait Analysis, finalized Data Collection
5. **Written Test {30 Points Possible}**
 - a. Test knowledge will include:
 - vii. All Items Previously covered in LS-HM Certification, CNBBT & CNBF exams
 - viii. Leverage Testing & E.L.P.O. Hoof Distortions Evaluation Protocol
 - ix. Identification of different hoof types (club, underrun, neg. plane, etc.)
 - i. Recognizing common pathologies or lameness issues
 - x. Equine anatomy and familiarity with veterinary diagnostic protocols
 - xi. Full understanding of treatment products and applications
 - xii. Ethics/Professionalism

Examination Details:

1. At the present time, testing to become certified at any level will be done during set courses offered through the E.L.P.O.
2. You must proclaim your desire to test and at what level at the start of the course, as your skills and knowledge will be reviewed throughout the course.
3. You must complete each Certification in the order listed. That means in order to take the certified farrier exam; you must first pass the LS-HM Certification and the Barefoot Trimming Certification.
4. With the exception of the LS-HM Certification, all certification tests will be evaluated on 1 complete horse (all 4 feet). The other horses or feet that you work on during acclimation days will be evaluated closely as well but not graded. Never the less, a complete use of the required protocol should ALWAYS be employed on every foot you work on during the course.
5. Reasonable time limits for each practical exam have been set to accurately measure your level of proficiency and professionalism. LS-HM Certification (30 Minutes), Barefoot Trimmer Certification (90 Minutes), & Farrier Certification (3 Hours).
6. The written portion of the certification exams is comprised of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and matching type questions. There is no time limit on the written exams; however they typically take 45 – 60 minutes to complete.
7. The Final Certification Score will be a combination of points earned from each section of the exam. Next to each certification description, there is a Total number of “Points” that can be earned through the examination process. After each section (Practical, Written, etc.), there is a Maximum number of “Points” that can be earned during that part of the exam. The combined “Points” earned from each section will be your Total Points. Passing scores are as follows:
 - a. LS-HM Certification = 38 Points (out of 50)
 - b. NB Barefoot Trimmer Certification = 56 Points (out of 75)
 - c. NB Farrier Certification = 82.5 Points (out of 110)
 - d. Lameness Specialist Certification = 82.5 Points (out of 110)
 - e. **Exception:** *Receiving lower than a 70% on the Written or Practical Exam will constitute a Failing grade on the entire Certification Exam, regardless of the Total Points earned.*