



**Australian Government**

**Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations**

# **ACMFAR309A Fit shoes for normal healthy horses**

**Revision Number: 1**

## ACMFAR309A Fit shoes for normal healthy horses

### Modification History

Not applicable.

### Unit Descriptor

<b>Unit descriptor</b>	<p>This unit of competency covers the processes required to prepare the feet of normal healthy horses with no obvious problems and the application of standard shoes, which have been hot or cold fitted.</p> <p>This unit forms part of the requirements of the trade qualification for farriery.</p>
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### Application of the Unit

<b>Application of the unit</b>	<p>This unit is applicable to farriers working in farriery workplaces.</p> <p>In addition to legal and ethical responsibilities, all units of competency in the ACM10 Animal Care and Management Training Package have the requirement for animals to be handled gently and calmly. The individual is required to exhibit appropriate care for animals so that stress and discomfort is minimised.</p>
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### Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

## Pre-Requisites

<b>Prerequisite units</b>		

## Employability Skills Information

<b>Employability skills</b>	This unit contains employability skills.
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## Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.
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## Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
1. Identify shoeing needs of individual horses	<p>1.1. Horses are handled appropriately to reduce stress and alarm, and behaviour is monitored to eliminate <b>risks to horse or handlers</b>, and <b>restraints</b> are used as required.</p> <p>1.2. <b>Features of gait and conformation</b> of the horse are identified.</p> <p>1.3. A working position is adopted which maintains comfort of the horse and ensures comfort and personal safety of the farrier and any assistants.</p> <p>1.4. Shoes are removed safely, using <b>tools</b> appropriate for the task and ensuring no damage is caused to the feet of the horse.</p> <p>1.5. Feet are cleaned of all foreign bodies to facilitate examination of the hoof, ensuring all <b>relevant factors</b> are taken into account.</p> <p>1.6. The shoe is examined, and <b>implications of the wear pattern</b> are assessed for trimming and shoeing.</p> <p>1.7. Any conditions requiring higher level treatment are reported to other farriers or to veterinarians involved with hoof care, as required.</p> <p>1.8. The agreed foot care plan is amended with the responsible person, taking into account conditions of the feet not previously identifiable.</p>
2. Trim and prepare feet	<p>2.1. Appropriate shoeing <b>tools</b> are used to safely trim and prepare feet to achieve balance, level and shape, and to correct any identified foot defects.</p> <p>2.2. <b>Trimming</b> operations are conducted without <b>injury to the horse's feet</b>.</p> <p>2.3. Work is visually checked, while in progress and on completion, to ensure <b>quality outcomes of foot preparation</b> have been achieved.</p>
3. Fit shoes	<p>3.1. Correct type, material and size of shoe are selected according to the shoeing plan and modifications are made as required by the individual horse.</p> <p>3.2. Appropriate tools are selected for the purpose of fitting shoes.</p> <p>3.3. Selected shoes are shaped to incorporate any <b>ancillary features</b> as determined by the foot care and shoeing plan.</p> <p>3.4. Shoes are fitted to fore and hind feet, and the need for any final adjustments is assessed.</p>

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
	<p>3.5. <i>Final adjustments</i> are made to the shape and size of the shoe to achieve correct fit, with any ancillary features being added to the shoe as determined by the work requirements of the horse.</p> <p>3.6. Health and safety of the horse, self and others is maintained throughout the process.</p>
4. Attach shoes and finish shoeing process	<p>4.1. Tools and nails are selected, suitable for attaching and clenching shoes.</p> <p>4.2. The shoe is safely and securely attached in the correct position, ensuring the <i>relevant factors</i> are taken into account.</p> <p>4.3. The hoof is finished according to specification, and the <i>finished job assessed</i> along with the welfare of the horse.</p> <p>4.4. The horse is trotted to identify any signs of lameness.</p> <p>4.5. The responsible person is informed of actions taken, and advised on horse's future foot care requirements.</p> <p>4.6. Appropriate records of service provided are maintained.</p>

## Required Skills and Knowledge

### REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

#### Required skills

- adhere to occupational health and safety (OHS) and animal welfare legislation, regulations and codes of practice
- employ safe and environmentally responsible organisational systems and procedures when working with and handling horses
- maintain highest standards of hygiene and infection control at all times to reduce the risk of infection and cross-infection
- maintain records as appropriate
- recognise and work within own limitations
- literacy skills to read and follow organisational policies and procedures, including OHS, waste management and hygiene standards; follow sequenced written instructions; and record the information accurately and legibly
- oral communication skills/language to fulfil the job role as specified, including questioning, active listening, asking for clarification and seeking advice when required
- numeracy skills to estimate, calculate, record and apply routine workplace measures to required tasks including measurements to assess shoe requirements
- problem-solving skills to select required materials and equipment and prioritise tasks
- use safe manual handling techniques and/or equipment
- use safe waste handling and disposal procedures
- work as part of a team with other professionals, including veterinarians.

#### Required knowledge

- anatomical features of the lower limb and foot of the horse and applicable biomechanical functions
- conformation, normal gait and abnormalities of gait
- effects of trimming on the stance and action of the horse
- general anatomy of the horse
- limits of safe trimming and why these must not be exceeded
- relevant legislation and codes of practice and personal responsibilities
- safe work practices.

## Evidence Guide

<b>EVIDENCE GUIDE</b>	
<p>The Evidence Guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.</p>	
<b>Overview of assessment</b>	
<b>Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit</b>	<p>The evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to workplace operations and satisfy all of the requirements of the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge and the range statement of this unit. Assessors should ensure that candidates can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify shoeing needs of individual horses</li> <li>• trim and prepare feet</li> <li>• select and fit appropriate pairs of shoes to normal healthy horses and assess quality of outcome</li> <li>• provide advice on future hoof care requirements and maintain records of service provided.</li> </ul> <p>The skills and knowledge required to fit shoes for normal healthy horses must be transferable to a range of work environments and contexts and include the ability to deal with unplanned events.</p>
<b>Context of and specific resources for assessment</b>	<p>Assessment of this unit is to be practical in nature and will be most appropriately assessed in worksites, where routine farriery tasks are performed, or in a situation that reproduces normal work conditions.</p> <p>There must be access to a range of normal healthy horses, including pleasure, eventing and show jumping horses as well as the appropriate equipment and/or resources to enable one to demonstrate competence.</p>
<b>Method of assessment</b>	<p>To ensure consistency in one's performance, competency should be demonstrated, to industry defined standards, on more than one occasion over a period of time in order to cover a variety of circumstances and where possible, over a number of assessment activities.</p> <p>The assessment strategy must include practical skills assessment. Suggested strategies for this unit are:</p>

<b>EVIDENCE GUIDE</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• written and/or oral assessment of candidate's required knowledge</li> <li>• observed, documented and first-hand testimonial evidence of candidate's application of practical tasks</li> <li>• simulation exercises that reproduce normal work conditions</li> <li>• case study analysis</li> <li>• third-party evidence</li> <li>• workplace documentation</li> <li>• portfolio.</li> </ul> <p>This unit may be assessed in a holistic way with other units of competency relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role.</p>
<b>Guidance information for assessment</b>	<p>Assessment methods should reflect workplace demands (e.g. literacy and numeracy demands) and the needs of particular target groups (e.g. people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, people with a language background other than English, youth and people from low socioeconomic backgrounds).</p>



## Range Statement

### RANGE STATEMENT

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

***Risks to horse or handlers*** may include:

- completing farriery tasks:
  - applying fillers and other treatments
  - cleaning and sharpening tools
  - exposure to noise, dust, skin and eye irritants
  - handling horses
  - manual handling associated with working with tools and metal
  - removing, replacing and fitting shoes
  - trimming feet
  - working with fire to shape shoes, shoe horses and weld
  - working with hazardous items (e.g. electricity, heat, gas and other flammables)
- outside distractions:
  - noise
  - movement
  - other animals
  - vehicles
- uneducated, stressed or difficult horses.

***Restraints*** may include:

- head collar or halter and lead
- muzzles
- anti-rearing bit
- chemical sedatives prescribed by and administered under the supervision of a veterinarian
- hobbles
- leg ropes
- twitch.

Note: The majority of horses are quiet, easily managed and require no restraint. Where restraint

<b>RANGE STATEMENT</b>	
	is required it must be the minimum necessary and should always be determined through consultation with the owner or responsible person.
<b><i>Features of gait and conformation</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gaits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walk</li> <li>• trot</li> <li>• pace</li> <li>• canter</li> <li>• gallop</li> <li>• jump action</li> </ul> </li> <li>• characteristic actions of various breeds and types of horses</li> <li>• common faults of the skeletal system, stance and their effects on gait</li> <li>• common injuries of the muscular system and their effects on gait</li> <li>• ideal action and alignment</li> <li>• relationship of the conformation of the foot and limb to the way of going.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Tools for removing and fitting shoes</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• anvil</li> <li>• buffer</li> <li>• clenching tongs</li> <li>• nail pullers</li> <li>• pincers</li> <li>• pritchel</li> <li>• rasp</li> <li>• shoe shaper</li> <li>• shoeing hammer</li> <li>• hot shoe tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hot fit tongs</li> <li>• water bucket and water.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b><i>Relevant factors</i></b> when assessing feet may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• condition of the existing shoe</li> <li>• condition of the hooves</li> <li>• general condition of the horse</li> <li>• temperament of the horse</li> <li>• the approximate age of the horse</li> <li>• the work that the horse will perform</li> <li>• type of surface the horse will work on.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Implications of wear pattern</i></b> may	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• indicators of uneven weight bearing:</li> </ul>

<b>RANGE STATEMENT</b>	
include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• variations in shoe thickness on ground contact surface</li> <li>• uneven hoof wear</li> <li>• shoe movement on foot</li> <li>• indicators of stumbling or other forms of interference</li> <li>• indicators of poor fit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• presence of bruising or corns</li> <li>• shoe is pressing on sensitive structures</li> <li>• clenches have risen.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Tools</b> for trimming feet may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hoof nippers or cutters</li> <li>• rasp</li> <li>• paring knife</li> <li>• toe knife.</li> </ul>
Considerations required to safely <b>trim</b> and prepare feet may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• growth rate of the shod versus the unshod hoof</li> <li>• trimming aims to achieve a level bearing surface and a normal pastern foot axis, it involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• study of the shape and proportions of the foot</li> <li>• identification and correction of any defects</li> <li>• balance of the foot in relation to the length of toe and height of heel</li> <li>• adjusting any irregularities or unevenness in the bearing surface</li> <li>• checking the balance of the foot in relation to the pastern foot axis</li> <li>• determining how much hoof needs to be removed in relation to a range of conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• broken hoof and pastern angle</li> <li>• heels too high</li> <li>• heels too low</li> <li>• medial or lateral growth</li> <li>• toe too long</li> <li>• any problems noticed by owner in relation to breakover of hoof or interference.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Hoof trim considerations in relation to <b><i>injury to the horse's</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a badly dressed foot is not only altered in shape but also in position relative to the leg, which in</li> </ul>

<b>RANGE STATEMENT</b>	
<i>feet</i> may include:	<p>turn influences the action of the limb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• faults in dressing the foot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inadequate removal of excess hoof</li> <li>• overparing the frog</li> <li>• overparing the sole</li> <li>• over-lowering the toe</li> <li>• over-lowering the heels</li> <li>• over-lowering the bearing surface</li> <li>• uneven bearing surface</li> <li>• opening up the heels</li> <li>• rasping the wall and dumping the toe.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Quality outcomes</i> of hoof preparation may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• achieve optimal conformational relationships between angles of leading wall of hoof line, long axis of pastern and angle of shoulder</li> <li>• avoidance of reaching sensitive tissue</li> <li>• checking angles and shape of foot</li> <li>• the weight is evenly distributed over the foot</li> <li>• toe clip is cut in balance with hoof shape if clip is required</li> <li>• when viewed from behind, both heels are the same height and the base of the frog just touches the ground</li> <li>• when viewed from the side, the toe, quarters and heels are proportionate and the pastern foot axis is in a straight line.</li> </ul>
<i>Ancillary features</i> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bar</li> <li>• extra clip</li> <li>• extra nail holes</li> <li>• pads</li> <li>• seating out</li> <li>• shortening or lengthening heel</li> <li>• stud holes.</li> </ul>
<i>Final adjustments</i> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hot or cold shoes may be fitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• surface fitting, where the foot surface has to be adapted exactly to the bearing surface of the hoof</li> <li>• outline fitting, which means adaptation of the shoe to the length and breadth of the hoof with the outer border of the shoe corresponding to the outline of the bearing surface</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>RANGE STATEMENT</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• checking and adjusting shoe to reduce the risk of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• close fitting</li> <li>• wide fitting</li> </ul> </li> <li>• checking length of shoe to assess if:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• heels are too long</li> <li>• heels are too short.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Relevant factors</i> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nailing on a shoe should avoid:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nail bind</li> <li>• pricks</li> <li>• sole pressure</li> </ul> </li> <li>• holding horse's leg at a comfortable angle during nailing to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discourage horse from moving away during nailing</li> <li>• enable horse to stand in a balanced position</li> <li>• prevent injury to farrier due to poor manual handling techniques.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Factors taken into account when <i>finished job is assessed</i> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• securing shoe to foot:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• using an appropriate number of nails to secure shoe</li> <li>• selecting nails of appropriate size and length for hoof quality and shoe type</li> <li>• setting nails in appropriate position around hoof</li> <li>• nailing on the shoe in sequence</li> <li>• clenches even, flat and broad, nails driven to standard height</li> <li>• nails driven home, with heads fitting the countersinks</li> </ul> </li> <li>• with foot on the ground assess:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• front and hind feet are pairs, the same size and shape and the same pastern foot axis</li> <li>• no excessive rasping of the wall</li> <li>• no dumping of the wall (making the foot fit the shoe)</li> <li>• clips low and broad and the toe clip centred with correct angle to the hoof wall</li> <li>• shoe fits the outline of the foot and heels are of correct length</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**RANGE STATEMENT**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with foot off the ground assess:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no unnecessary paring of the frog and sole</li> <li>• heels not opened up</li> <li>• toe clip centred and in line with the point of the frog</li> <li>• sole eased at the seat of corn</li> <li>• no daylight between the foot and the shoe</li> <li>• shoe fits the foot and the heels do not interfere with the function of the frog</li> <li>• shoe is properly finished off</li> </ul> </li> <li>• horse shows no sign of lameness when trotted up.</li> </ul>
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**Unit Sector(s)**

<b>Unit sector</b>	Farriery
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**Competency field**

<b>Competency field</b>	
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**Co-requisite units**

<b>Co-requisite units</b>		