



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

RGRROP407A Perform duties of thoroughbred race starter

Release: 1

RGRROP407A Perform duties of thoroughbred race starter

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to safely and efficiently conduct thoroughbred race starts. It requires knowledge and skills associated with preparing for race starts, and working closely with other race meeting staff to start races and complete post-race activities, including the provision of reports to stewards and race club personnel.

It requires the ability to oversee safe horse handling and apply workplace OHS standards.

This unit of competency operates in work environments of racing stables, racecourses and public areas.

Licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements may apply to this unit. Check with your State Principal Racing Authority for current license or registration requirements.

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit

This unit of competency supports licensed and registered personnel and others in the thoroughbred racing industry who may be required to act as starters for race meetings as part of their job function.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Refer to Unit Descriptor

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills This unit contains employability skills.

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.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Prepare for race starts.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Race fields and distances are confirmed. 2. Past problems with particular horses during loading of barriers are noted. 3. Operation of barriers and other start equipment is confirmed prior to commencement of race meeting. 4. Contingency plans are arranged in case of malfunction in start equipment. 5. Rules of racing relating to starting a race are defined and complied with. 6. Hazards associated with the loading of barriers and race start are defined and strategies employed that minimise the risk of injury and comply with OHS and racing safe operating procedures . 7. Race meeting duties and instructions are allocated and relayed to staff.
Supervise pre-start activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Starters are verified and identified ,and approved gear and colours are noted. 9. Horses are sent to start under supervision of clerk of course. 10. Race start time is confirmed with stewards. 11. Order of loading barriers is determined and relayed to staff. 12. Barrier loading is performed within time and safety constraints using approved methods and personal protective equipment and with consideration to public perception of non-verbal signals and handling techniques. 13. Incidents are managed to minimise risk of injury to staff and horses and reported to stewards and veterinarian. 14. Non-starters are declared after conferring with stewards.
Start race and complete post-race activities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Possible delay in race time is reported to stewards. 16. Race start permission is sought from stewards. 17. Race start is initiated as soon as starters are loaded and ready. 18. Feedback on staff performance is provided in a timely and positive manner. 19. Barrier loading and race start reports are presented to stewards. 20. Barrier or start equipment is checked for damage and/or maintenance requirements prior to shutting down.

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

21. Repairs or maintenance requirements are reported to race club.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Required skills

- communicating with race meeting staff, stewards, licensed and registered personnel and others using assertive communication techniques to gather, interpret and relay information related to thoroughbred racing starts
- completing duties in accordance with safe operating procedures and nominated time frame
- complying with animal welfare legislation
- evaluating risks associated with race meeting starts and race day operations
- giving evidence in racing inquiries and investigations
- identifying individual horses using industry approved terminology, records and signalment
- identifying injured or distressed horses that require assistance
- making effective decisions and resolving routine problems within the bounds of the duties and responsibilities of a race meeting starter
- operating starting equipment
- overseeing safe handling and work practices when dealing with horses
- reading and interpreting racing documents relating to race distances, race fields, track conditions, horse identification and performance records
- reading and interpreting workplace documentation, including rules of racing and starting procedures
- recognising damaged or defective gear
- relating to people from a range of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and with varying physical and mental abilities
- reporting incidents to stewards in a timely manner
- resolving disputes according to thoroughbred racing protocols and procedures
- teamwork skills to ensure completion of job tasks
- working in a high pressure environment
- written communication skills to complete workplace documentation and reports.

Required knowledge

- approved gear

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- common features of injury, illness and distress in horses
- communication procedures within the race meeting and wider racing industry
- equipment used in work role and the procedures for its operation and maintenance
- horse handling and controlling techniques
- OHS and environmental legislative requirements
- organisational policies and procedures
- positive and effective communication strategies used to work with a team, deal with conflicts and resolve disputes
- racing industry animal welfare requirements
- racing industry safety requirements, including safe operating procedures
- range of behaviour traits exhibited by horses
- relevant rules of racing
- reporting requirements for irregularities and problems.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

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.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

The evidence required to demonstrate competency 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 and include evidence of the following:

- knowledge of the requirements, procedures and instructions that are to apply when starting thoroughbred races
- implementation of procedures and timely techniques for the safe, effective and efficient application of race starting operations
- working with others to undertake and complete the required procedures that meet required outcomes.

Evidence should be collected over a period of time in a range of workplace-relevant contexts and include dealings with an appropriate range of situations.

Context of, and specific resources for assessment

Competency must be assessed in a racing workplace that provides access to the required resources. Assessment is to occur under standard and authorised work practices, safety requirements and environmental constraints. It is to comply with relevant regulatory requirements or Australian Standards requirements.

Assessment of the practical components of this unit will be by observation of relevant skills.

The following resources must be available:

- a variety of thoroughbred horses
- materials and equipment relevant to assessing candidate's ability to start thoroughbred races
- safe handling and approved race starting and associated facilities
- work instructions and related documentation.

Method of assessment

Assessment methods must satisfy the endorsed Assessment Guidelines of the Racing Training Package.

The suggested strategies for the assessment of this unit are:

EVIDENCE GUIDE

- written and/or oral assessment of candidate's required knowledge
- observed, documented and firsthand testimonial evidence of candidate's application of practical tasks.

Evidence is required to be demonstrated over a period of time, therefore where performance is not directly observed any evidence should be authenticated by supervisors or other appropriate persons.

This unit may be assessed in a holistic way with other units of competency relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role, for example:

- RGRCMN001A Comply with the rules of racing and related protocols.

Guidance information for assessment

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).

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.

Past problems with particular horses during loading may include:

- horse:
 - attempts to burrow under or climb gates
 - charges forward
 - pulls sideways
 - rears
 - is reluctant to move forward and requires barrier blanket.

Operation of barriers and other start equipment check may

- battery
- communication system between starter and

RANGE STATEMENT

include:

driver

- damage
- electrical
- front and rear gates
- fuel
- lights
- power steering fluid
- tractor oil and water
- transmission fluid
- tyre pressure
- water.

Rules of racing in relation to race starts may include:

- ahead of advertised start time
- barrier positions for unruly horses
- defer or delay start
- horse denied fair start
- horse unfit
- non-starter
- order of placing at barrier
- rider disobedience
- riderless on jumping
- starter's orders
- starter's powers.

Hazards associated with start of the race may include:

- broken start equipment
- disruption at barrier
- gear breakage
- injury to staff, rider or horse
- non-compliance of riders.

OHS and racing safe operating procedures may include:

- adhering to responsibilities under OHS legislation and workplace practices
- adhering to responsibilities under national and state codes of practice; federal, state and territory legislation; and local government regulations covering animal welfare
- adhering to rules of racing and rules of the race venue
- considering variables that influence behaviour of horses, such as:
 - fences and equipment
 - other persons or animals
 - vehicles

RANGE STATEMENT

- wind and noise
 - contributing to development of risk control measures
 - following safe work practices
 - following accident and injury procedures
 - identifying and reporting unsafe work practices
 - identifying race start hazards
 - identifying emergency situations
 - understanding individual horse behaviour
 - wearing approved personal protective equipment.
- Duties and instructions* relayed to staff may include:
- climbing barrier
 - holding horses
 - loading horses
 - reminding staff of high visibility of actions due to televised barrier loading
 - shutting gates
 - walking horses.
- Horses are *identified* by:
- brands
 - colours
 - gender
 - markings.
- Approved gear* may include:
- bandages
 - bits
 - blinkers
 - boots
 - breastplates
 - bridles
 - crossover nosebands
 - girths
 - pacifiers
 - reins
 - rings
 - saddles
 - shadow roll
 - stirrup leathers
 - surcingles
 - tongue ties.
- Barrier loading* may include:
- applying cane under starter's instruction
 - applying barrier blanket

RANGE STATEMENT

- applying blindfold
 - applying twitch
 - assuming correct position to assist jockey in barrier
 - adjusting or removing gear
 - communicating with other team members to complete tasks
 - climbing barrier and moving to horse's head to take control
 - closing gates of stalls correctly
 - exiting barrier safely, quickly and efficiently
 - fitting correct items of gear
 - identifying non-approved gear
 - lifting tail to prevent horse flipping
 - leading horse forward into barrier correctly
 - linking arms to move horse forward
 - pushing horse sideways
 - straddling barrier safely to control horse.
 - maintaining confidentiality and discretion
 - promptly, courteously and efficiently
 - using correct forms of greeting
 - via verbal and/or written communication including:
 - describing actions
 - giving and receiving clear, accurate and simple messages
 - listening to and interpreting information and instructions
 - written reports may include simple documents and notes.
- Reports are presented* to stewards and race club:

Unit Sector(s)

Unit Sector Thoroughbred racing code

Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units

Functional Area

Functional Area Racing performance services