



**Australian Government**

**Assessment Requirements for  
ACMEQU415 Relate musculoskeletal  
system to horse conformation and  
movement**

**Release: 1**

# Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU415 Relate musculoskeletal system to horse conformation and movement

## Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 5.0.

## Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual has:

- observed and examined the physical condition, conformation and movement of at least four different horses, including:
  - at least one foal or young horse under two years of age
  - at least one horse requiring recommendations for treatment or referral to an equine service provider
  - at least one horse requiring recommendations for preparation for intended purpose
- handled and interacted with each horse safely using low stress techniques during examinations and observations
- provided a report on each horse, covering:
  - desirable and undesirable conformational features
  - analysis of movement and gait
  - relationship of physical features to intended purpose
  - recommendations for improved performance or referral to an equine service provider, if appropriate.

## Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- horse musculoskeletal system, including:
  - bones, joints and bony landmarks
  - key function and features of the equine fore and hind limbs, including distal limb and hoof capsule
  - key muscles and their actions, origin and insertion points

- location of deep and superficial muscles
- location of tendons, ligaments and soft tissues
- function and anatomy of fascial sheaths
- key anatomical and physiological terminology used to describe the equine musculoskeletal system
- changes or impacts on horse musculoskeletal system, including:
  - age and growth
  - exercise, training and performance
  - ailments and injury
- horse conformation, including:
  - techniques for analysing conformation
  - desirable and undesirable conformation characteristics
  - horse breeds, conformation characteristics and breed standards of excellence
  - performance horse sports requirements relevant to conformation
  - industry standard conformation terminology
- fundamentals of biomechanics and key concepts relevant to horse movement, including:
  - movement of body
  - balance
  - speed and acceleration
- horse gaits, including:
  - steps and strides
  - natural gaits – walk, trot, canter/lope, gallop and back
  - ambling or artificial gaits generally requiring training
  - recognition of asymmetry, uneven gait
- circumstances that require referral to relevant equine service provider, including:
  - veterinarian
  - farrier
  - equine massage therapist or other body worker
  - gear fitter and checker
  - equine dental technician
- workplace health and safety practices, including:
  - risk assessment and control measures
  - safe handling and interactions with horses
  - use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - issues related to controlled and uncontrolled environments
- key requirements of animal welfare standards, policies and procedures relevant to the safe, humane and ethical care of horses, including an overview of concept of social licence to operate.

## Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
  - an equine workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
  - various live horses as specified in the performance evidence, assessed as suitable for the experience and skill of the individual
  - appropriate gear for horse and PPE for handler.

The *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training* provides advice and sample templates to assist assessors with the risk assessments that should be undertaken to help ensure the safety of all involved in the assessment.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

## Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>