



**Australian Government**

**Assessment Requirements for  
ACMEQU420 Fit and adjust bits and  
bridles**

**Release: 1**

# Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU420 Fit and adjust bits and bridles

## 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:

- investigated the range of bit and bridle designs and summarised key features, advantages and disadvantages of the following types:
  - English style – general/all-purpose bits and bridles
  - dressage bits and bridles
  - Western/stock style bits and bridles
  - jumping bits and bridles
- assessed an existing bit and/or bridle combination on three different horses, and provided options for changes/adjustments to meet current horse or rider needs
- assessed requirements for at least three different horses and selected and correctly fitted an appropriate bit and/or bridle combination for:
  - an all-purpose recreational riding activity
  - two different sport discipline or work activities
- communicated and interacted effectively with at least two different clients
- used safe work practices around horses, and assessed risks to riders, horses and self in relation to fitting gear.

## 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 headwear components, including:
  - mouthpiece/bar
  - cheek pieces or rings
  - chin strap

- curb strap/chain
- noseband
- crown piece
- browband
- throatlatch
- reins
- anatomy of horse head, including:
  - skull, and facial, trigeminal and glossopharyngeal nerves
  - jaw, bar and infraorbital nerve
  - nasal bones and cheek bones (zygomatic ridge)
  - mouth, pallet, tongue
  - teeth and dentition, including Triadan system for identifying teeth
  - neck – cervical spine
- types and features of bridles related to riding discipline or purpose, including:
  - English style general/all-purpose
  - dressage
  - Western/stock
  - jumping
- rules and guidelines for bridles and bits in key horse sport disciplines
- types and range of direct action cheek pieces, including:
  - Loose Ring
  - Eggbutt
  - Dee Ring
  - Full Cheek
  - Loose Ring Fulmer
  - Baucher/Hanging Cheek/Drop Cheek
- types and range of leverage cheek pieces (\*denotes Western terminology), including:
  - Dutch Gag
  - 2.5 Ring
  - Bevel/Wilkie
  - Williams
  - Kimblewick
  - Swivel/Cartwheel
  - Elevator
  - Pelham
  - Weymouth
  - Cheltenham/Balding/Nelson Gag
  - Shank Bit\*
  - Grazing Bit\*
  - Western Tom Thumb\*

- types and range of mouthpieces, including:
  - Single Jointed
  - French Link
  - Lozenge Link
  - Barrel Link
  - Ported Mullen Mouth/Cambridge Mouth
  - Straight Mullen Mouth/Flexible Mullen Mouth
  - Waterford
  - Rollers
- range of bit materials, including:
  - metal – nickel plated, stainless steel, copper alloy, brass, sweet iron
  - non-metallic – nylon, plastic, rubber, leather
- types of bit and bridle accessories, including:
  - comfort/padding additions
  - bit guards/rubbers
  - leather strapping
- markers indicating correct and comfortable fit of bit and bridle for horse, including:
  - comfortable mouth movement (within normal parameters)
  - appropriate range of motion of head
  - correct height in mouth in relation to teeth
- indicators requiring further investigation of issues, including:
  - horse facial features indicating pain
  - gaping mouth
  - chewing on bit
  - discolouration of tongue
- health and safety hazards and controls when working in close proximity with horses, including:
  - use of safe, low stress handling techniques and restraints
  - use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - position and horse safety zones
- techniques for working with clients, including clear communication, collaborative interactions and client confidentiality
- key requirements of biosecurity and workplace hygiene relating to bits and bridles, including:
  - mouth rinse for horses and disinfection chemicals and processes
  - protocols for sharing gear
  - zoonotic and infectious diseases, including those caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses
- key principles and practices of animal welfare relating to use and comfort of gear, and humane and ethical handling of horses.

## 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:
  - a range of bits and bridles as specified in the performance evidence
  - PPE appropriate for handler and activity
  - live horses of varying size and shape, assessed as suitable for the skill and experience of the individual, as specified in the performance evidence
- relationships:
  - rider and/or client.

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>