



**Australian Government**

# **ACMEQU420 Fit and adjust bits and bridles**

**Release: 1**

## 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.

### Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to select and fit bits and bridles for individual horses and riders for range of horse sport or work activities.

The unit applies to individuals who assess requirements and provide bit and bridle fitting services. They work autonomously, use judgment in the selection and use of equipment, and provide and communicate solutions for predictable and unpredictable problems.

Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety and animal welfare legislation, regulations and codes of practice relevant to interacting with horses apply to workers in this industry. Requirements vary between industry sectors and jurisdictions.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

### Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

### Unit Sector

Equine (EQU)

### Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Maintain currency of knowledge of bits and bridles	1.1 Identify design features and components of bits and bridles used for a range of horse sport disciplines, work activities and levels of rider experience 1.2 Evaluate materials and durability of bits and bridles 1.3 Apply techniques for assembling, cleaning and maintaining bit and

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Performance Criteria</b>
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	bridle components 1.4 Assess safety features and issues associated with bits and bridles 1.5 Review current science and research about fitting bits and bridles for improved horse comfort, performance and safety
2. Identify rider and horse requirements	2.1 Determine client requirements, riding experience and intended use of horse 2.2 Identify overall horse characteristics, size, age and level of education 2.3 Request information on concerns or problems related to bit and bridle fit and horse behaviour
3. Assess fit of existing bit and bridle	3.1 Select and fit personal protective equipment (PPE) 3.2 Assess and control risks associated with interacting with horses in close proximity 3.2 Approach and interact with horse using safe, low stress handling techniques and secure as required 3.3 Examine horse for signs indicating pain, discomfort or inappropriate fit of existing bit and bridle 3.4 Observe horse being ridden and identify behaviours indicating issues with fit of existing bit and bridle 3.5 Provide options to client for improving fit of bit and bridle, including adjustments to existing gear or new gear components
4. Examine horse and select bit and bridle components	4.1 Check horse mouth and dentition to determine bit fitting issues and advise on referral to veterinarian or equine dental technician if required 4.2 Estimate or measure size of horse mouth using an appropriate tool, bit measure or existing bit 4.3 Select appropriate size of bit, taking into consideration bit style and ring size and thickness of cheek pieces 4.4 Select bit style to suit intended activity, and rider ability and needs to optimise individual horse comfort and movement 4.5 Examine key anatomical features of head, including skull, jaw, nasal bones and mouth, estimating sizes relevant for bridle component selection 4.6 Select bridle components suitable for individual horse, intended

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Performance Criteria</b>
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	activity and client requirements
5. Fit bit and bridle and make adjustments	5.1 Position bridle on horse and adjust components to ensure a comfortable fit 5.2 Fit bit appropriate for individual horse and intended activity, and check for correct position in mouth 5.3 Select, fit and adjust reins to suit rider characteristics 5.4 Evaluate fit of bit and bridle on horse while static 5.5 Observe horse when being ridden in different gaits to determine correct fit of bit and bridle, and make required adjustments 5.6 Determine and select add-on accessories for rider and horse safety and comfort, in collaboration with client
6. Finalise fitting service	6.1 Confirm selection of bit and bridle with client 6.2 Complete horse and client records according to organisational practice 6.3 Finalise invoice, transaction or service arrangements 6.4 Provide client follow-up service as required or agreed

## Foundation Skills

*This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.*

<b>Skill</b>	<b>Description</b>
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete workplace documentation using industry terminology in print-based and/or digital format</li> </ul>
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use questioning and listening skills to elicit information and confirm and clarify understanding</li> <li>Use language and tone appropriate for audience to convey information</li> </ul>
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take accurate measurements in centimetres (metric) and inches (imperial)</li> <li>Estimate measurements using finger/hand spacing or improvised tools</li> </ul>

## Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU420 Fit and adjust bits and bridles	Not applicable	The unit has been created to address a skill or task required by industry	Newly created

## Links

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