



**Australian Government**

# **Assessment Requirements for SISOEQU006 Guide horse trail rides in untracked areas**

**Release: 2**

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## Modification History

Unit Release 2. No change to unit content from Release 1; mapping updated for accuracy.

## Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- guide two different trail rides, each lasting for a minimum of four hours, on two different compliant and manageable horses
- during each of the rides, at different times, assume the position of both front rider guide and drag or roving rider guide
- guide a minimum of five and a maximum of ten participants during each trail ride
- during each ride:
  - consistently control participant adherence to safety procedures and practices
  - consistently monitor and control horse behaviour
  - consistently ensure riders are in control of their horse and provide assistance with riding techniques as required
- according to scenarios:
  - provide responses to two emergency situations and complete two incident reports
  - complete two reports on equipment faults.

## Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- organisational safety, emergency response and first aid procedures for guiding horse trail rides
- organisational policies, procedures and codes for minimal impact of horse riding activities to the environment
- basic aspects of applicable state, territory, local government or land manager environmental regulations sufficient to know where trail rides may be operated in untracked and environmentally sensitive areas and under what conditions
- sources of information on weather and environmental conditions and how to use to ascertain riding conditions
- the effects of weather on riding conditions, route and selection of personal equipment and tack
- purpose, features and safe set up of horse riding tack for trail rides:
  - saddles of different types and their suitability for different riders and trails with difficult terrain

- equipment to ensure security of saddle position on difficult terrain including breastplates and cruppers
- halters and ropes and techniques for securing during travel
- saddle bags
- factors that affect the selection of tack and personal protective equipment to suit individual riders
- key features of different types of navigation and communication equipment used for complex trail rides, and factors that affect choice:
  - compass
  - route maps
  - topographic maps
  - global positioning systems (GPS)
  - two-way radios
  - mobile phones and applications
  - satellite phones
  - alerting and tracking devices including personal locator beacons (PLBs)
- clothing requirements for trail rides to protect against sunburn, heat stroke, wet and cold weather
- waterproofing and stowing techniques used to keep clothing and equipment dry during ride
- communication protocols for group trail rides in untracked environments
- order of ride procedures for group trail rides to include positioning and roles of:
  - front rider
  - drag roving rider guide
  - assistant guides and support staff
  - participant riders
  - unmounted horses
- procedures for safely crossing public roads and travelling along them
- behavioural history of individual horses chosen for the ride
- common behavioural problems of horses during group trail rides in untracked areas with difficult terrain
- techniques used to control adverse horse behaviour while maintaining welfare of the horse and safety of rider.

## Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a horse trail riding environment meeting the following conditions:

- untracked areas with difficult terrain
- steep ascents and descents
- numerous environmental obstacles.

Horse matching prior to all assessments involving horse interaction is essential. Assessors must:

- complete, participate in or validate a risk assessment of both the candidate's and other participant riders' characteristics and level of horse handling and riding skills
- match, or validate the matching of, horses of suitable history, size and temperament to both the candidate and other participants to ensure that rider and horse combination is safe.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- a group of minimum five and maximum ten participant riders whom the individual guides
- compliant and manageable horses, matched to all riders as above, and educated for untracked trail ride conditions
- tack to include:
  - halters
  - leads
  - ropes
  - saddles which can be stock, hybrid or western saddles
  - saddle cloths
  - bridles
  - reins
  - bits
  - stirrups with safety features
  - saddle bags
- personal protective equipment to include:
  - sun protection and wet weather clothing
  - riding boots
  - Australian Standard, or equivalent, compliant helmets
- navigation equipment
- communication equipment including equipment for emergency response
- activity plans
- risk assessments for trail rides to include known and anticipated hazards, safety risks and control measures
- hard copy or online information on weather and other environmental conditions
- template:
  - safety checklists
  - participant disclaimers
  - equipment fault reports
  - incident reports
- organisational safety, emergency response and first aid procedures for guiding horse trail rides

- organisational policies, procedures and codes for minimal impact of horse riding activities to the environment
- plain English documents issued by state, territory, local government regulators or land managers describing regulations for operating horse trail rides in untracked areas.

Assessment must ensure access to:

- breastplates and cruppers
- human and equine first aid equipment.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- hold a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes this unit of competency, SISOEQU006 Guide horse trail rides in untracked areas, or a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes a unit of competency that has been superseded by this unit, and
- have at least three years' experience as a trail guide or trail boss where they have applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency, and
- hold accreditation relevant to assessing trail guide skills covered by this unit; accreditation refers to:
  - accreditation offered by equine sporting organisations recognised by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), or
  - certification offered by equine organisations which are Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) or whose training is managed by an affiliated RTO.

## Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guides -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>