



Australian Government

ACMEQU207 Develop riding skills for exercising horses

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to develop riding skills for exercising well-educated horses on the flat and in negotiating set obstacles in controlled and open areas. It includes assessing hazards, protecting the welfare of people and horses; fitting gear and tack for specific horse needs and providing targeted post-exercise care of horses.

The unit applies to riders who have skills to control a calm, consistent and obedient horse at walk, trot and canter in controlled environments. Working environments cover a range of sectors and situations where horses are used under saddle, including in paddocks, stock or exercise yards, arenas, natural trails and in controlled open areas at training and competition venues and public areas.

No licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication, except for the racing industry, where requirements vary between states and territories. Users working in the racing industry are advised to contact the relevant Principal Racing Authority for advice on current requirements.

Work health and safety and animal welfare legislation relevant to interacting with horses applies to workers in this industry. Requirements vary between industry sectors and state/territory jurisdictions. Users are advised to check with the relevant authority for specific requirements.

NOTE: The terms ‘occupational health and safety’ (OHS) and ‘work health and safety’ (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

Prerequisite unit of competency for this unit is:

- ACMEQU206 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter.

Note the following chain of prerequisites that also applies to this unit.

Unit of competency	Prerequisite requirement
ACMEQU206 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter	ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely
ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely	ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour

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. Prepare to ride	1.1 Discuss horse suitability with supervisor to determine suitability for own riding skill level 1.2 Follow safe horse handling practices, WHS procedures, and riding etiquette associated with workplace, location and activity 1.3 Check and assess riding area for potential hazards and risks, and identify ways to control risks 1.4 Select and fit gear according to purpose, features of fit and workplace requirements 1.5 Present appropriately tacked-up horse to instructor for riding gear check, prior to mounting 1.6 Check and adjust girth and tension once horse has warmed up, and adjust tension as required for particular saddle rigging
2. Ride and control horse safely while exercising	2.1 Mount horse in a safe and balanced manner as instructed 2.2 Ride a horse safely in a controlled manner in walk, trot and canter in a suitable arena and safe open space 2.3 Maintain control of horse at walk, trot and canter whilst working around other horses 2.4 Ride at a safe distance of two horse lengths from other riders and horses in riding area 2.5 Identify the footfalls in all gaits from the saddle and the

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	ground 2.6 Rise on the appropriate diagonal in trot 2.7 Maintain position during short periods of sitting trot 2.8 Strike-off to canter on the nominated lead 2.9 Establish and maintain position and nominated gaits as instructed 2.10 Report problems and carry out post-exercise care of horses and gear according to stable procedures
3. Complete tasks whilst mounted	3.1 Safely negotiate different surfaces and ground conditions 3.2 Apply safe riding skills to ride a horse past obstacles 3.3 Carry a whip or crop safely to reinforce riding aids 3.4 Control riding over poles as instructed 3.5 Carry out horse fitness exercise for nominated activity, including warm up, exercise and cool down
4. Complete and report post-riding activities	4.1 Assess and apply the cooling-down needs of the horse 4.2 Remove safely, clean and inspect gear before storage 4.3 Report condition of gear and horse post-exercise to riding instructor 4.4 Report own performance to instructor and obtain feedback

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.

Skill	Description
Oral communication	• Use active listening and questioning to clarify and confirm supervisor instructions • Use industry-standard terminology to describe and report horse riding related activities
Interact with	• Follow workplace rules and etiquette using clear communication techniques to work safely with others while riding under saddle

Skill	Description
others	
Get the work done	Assemble gear and tack for activity and follow clear, sequenced instructions to exercise horses

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU207 Develop riding skills for exercising horses	Not applicable	New unit	No equivalent unit

Links

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

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU207 Develop riding skills for exercising horses

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Performance Evidence

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

There must be evidence that the individual demonstrated riding skills for exercising at least two different well-educated, compliant and manageable horses. The individual must have ridden each horse on at least three different occasions, with and without other horses and riders in the immediate vicinity, during which the individual has:

- selected, correctly fitted and adjusted a range of gear for a specified purpose or activity, including:
 - saddles
 - stirrup irons and safety devices
 - bridle with bit
 - accessory tack
 - saddle cloth
 - boots or bandages
 - other strapping relevant to discipline
- selected and correctly fitted personal protective equipment (PPE)
- controlled the horse under saddle at all times in the following tasks:
 - applying aids to establish and control gait, speed and direction of a horse at walk, trot and canter
 - holding reins for two hands, one hand and bridging techniques
 - increasing and decreasing speed at trot and canter over a minimum distance of 500 metres
 - exercising horse with others at walk, trot and canter whilst maintaining safe riding distance
 - rising on the correct diagonal at trot
 - negotiating at least three poles on the ground at walk and sitting and rising trot
 - maintaining seat at canter over a minimum of 200 metres
- carried a whip or crop and demonstrating how to use the whip or crop to:

- transfer whip or crop from one hand to the other
- reinforce leg, seat and hand aids to control direction and speed
- ridden horse singly and in company, maintaining safe riding distances
- used appropriate tactics to adjust horse speed and position to prevent slips and falls:
 - negotiating a range of different ground surfaces and slopes
 - passing obstacles
 - approaching, passing or riding with other horses
- completed horse fitness exercise session instructions and reporting on horse response
- identified the footfalls of each gait when on the ground and mounted
- struck off to canter on the nominated lead from trot.

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:

- purpose, features of fit and use of different items of gear relevant to the particular workplace, from at least two different horse work sectors, including:
 - types and styles of saddles
 - bits and bridles
 - accessory tack for relevant sector or discipline
 - saddlecloths
 - boots and bandages
 - other strapping relevant to discipline
- purpose and correct fit of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- types of horse gaits and variations within gaits for ridden horses
- types of aids and rider position techniques to:
 - control gait, speed and direction of a horse
 - maintain rider position during rising and sitting trot
 - maintain rider position when riding on different surfaces, slopes and ground conditions
- potential hazards in the horse riding environment and risks to horse or rider, including:
 - riding surface and conditions
 - safe distances for riding in the vicinity of other horses
- key features of safe and ethical horse handling techniques
- key features of work health and safety procedures
- basic overview of riding etiquette and protocols for locations or venues used in the relevant sector.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:

- a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - various well-educated, compliant and manageable horses, assessed as suitable for the experience and riding skill of the individual
 - other riders
 - appropriate tack for individual, horse and activity
 - personal protective equipment (PPE) for the individual, correctly fitted, including riding boots, safety vest and Australian standard or equivalent compliant helmet.

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training*.

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

The following specific assessor requirements apply to this unit. The assessor must:

- hold a current, recognised qualification for instructing or coaching horse riding and handling skills (refer to *User Guide* for details), and
- have three years of experience organising groups and responding to different types of riders and horses in order to prevent incidents that could lead to injury of rider or horse.

Links

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