



Australian Government

ACMEQU214 Prepare to work safely around horses

Release: 1

ACMEQU214 Prepare to work safely around horses

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 to understand and interpret horse behaviour and body language in order to minimise risks to self, others and horses when working around horses.

This unit applies to workers who work around horses, but do not directly handle horses. These roles may include administration, finance, marketing, customer service, catering, facility management and equipment repair.

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. Identify basic horse behaviour	1.1 Identify basic horse characteristics and identification features 1.2 Identify the natural instincts, sensory perceptions and social behaviour of horses 1.3 Recognise how horse senses can influence their behaviour and

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	reactions 1.4 Identify environmental conditions and other stimuli that can unsettle horses 1.5 Identify ways horses can respond to different people and in different situations 1.6 Identify body language, vocalisation, posture and facial features, indicating a horse is unsettled, agitated, in pain or relaxed in its surroundings
2. Identify areas of personal risk around horses	2.1 Identify situations, work activities and behaviours that lead to common incidents, accidents and injuries when working around horses 2.2 Recognise human body language and behaviour that should be avoided around horses 2.3 Identify positive actions and behaviours that minimise risks when around horses
3. Undertake site induction	3.1 Report to site supervisor, and complete required site registration and safety requirements to access site for own work 3.2 Confirm and explain workplace roles, responsibilities and procedures for responding to worker and horse health and safety incidents, accidents and emergencies 3.3 Confirm work tasks, location, timeframes, support workers and resources required with site supervisor 3.4 Identify hazards associated with own tasks, assess risks and confirm risk controls for proposed tasks with site supervisor
4. Minimise risks when working around horses	4.1 Select and fit personal protective equipment, identification and other equipment as required 4.2 Interpret and respond appropriately to horse body language during work tasks 4.3 Maintain situational awareness of horses while undertaking tasks, and respond to and report new hazards that arise to site supervisor 4.4 Complete tasks, report outcomes to site supervisor and undertake exit procedures according to workplace requirements

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
Reading	Interpret equine workplace safety induction documentation
Oral communication	- Use equine industry terminology to describe horse behaviour and body language - Use open and closed questions to seek and confirm information

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU214 Prepare to work safely around horses	ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour	Unit redesigned to include new outcomes to prepare individuals to work safely around horses Major changes to all sections of the unit	Not equivalent

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 ACMEQU214 Prepare to work safely around horses

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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:

- identified horse identification features, including gender, colour and brand
- explained the typical behaviour of the following types of horse toward other horses and handlers:
 - educated, calm and obedient horses
 - uneducated horses
 - excited and less responsive to commands
 - stallions and colts
- observed and interpreted horse behaviour and body language of at least three different horses displaying different behavioural states and body language in different environments on separate occasions
- identified at least three different hazards arising from their own work activities undertaken around horses that may create health and safety risks to themselves, others and horses
- assessed and explained how to minimise the risk created by at least three different hazards arising from their own work when undertaken around horses
- completed a visitor or worker safety induction for at least one equine workplace
- reported any concerns regarding horse behaviour and outcomes for own work to site supervisor in a timely manner.

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:

- common features of a horse, including colour, gender, basic points of horse and brands
- features of horse natural instincts and behaviour, including:
 - normal flight and fight responses, including protective behaviour

- normal and abnormal behaviours
- herd, social organisation, need for space and companions
- attachment and separation anxiety
- alertness, fear and arousal
- features of horse senses, including vision, touch, smell, hearing and taste
- observation and interpretation of horse vocalisation and body language, including posture and body position, facial features, ears, legs and tail to identify:
 - flight response
 - fight response
 - threatened or defensive behaviour
 - stress, agitation or unsettled behaviour
 - pain
 - relaxed behaviour
- human body language, voice and behaviour that should be avoided around horses
- positive actions and behaviours that minimise risks when around horses
- situations, work activities and behaviours that lead to common incidents, accidents and injuries when working around horses, including:
 - loose uncontrolled horses
 - start-up and operation of loud equipment, machinery and vehicles
 - sudden or unexpected movements and sounds, including those create by people
 - uncontrolled dogs
 - approaching from a horse's blind spot
 - introduction of other horses
 - gates and restraints not used correctly that result in loose horses
 - weather conditions and sudden changes in weather
- key features and benefits of situational awareness when working around horses
- common hazards and risks associated with visitors when working around horses, including zoonotic diseases and basic biosecurity
- basic principles of hazard identification and risk assessment in an equine workplace
- typical strategies to minimise and control common risks associated with working around horses
- key features of safety inductions for an equine worksite, including roles and responsibilities for reporting hazards and risks.

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:

- live horses and/or videos/images of horse behaviour where relevant aspects of behaviour specified in the performance evidence cannot be observed with live horses
- equine workplace safety induction materials as specified in the performance evidence
- relationships:
 - site supervisor.

If live horses are used during the assessment of skills, 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

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