



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU218 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter

Release: 1

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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 safely performed horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter, in an enclosed environment on at least two different horses assessed as suitable for rider skills and experience. The individual must have ridden each horse on at least three different occasions, with and without other horse/s and rider/s in the immediate vicinity, during which the individual has:

- identified, assessed and controlled within level of responsibility at least three different risks associated with riding horses around others
- used correctly fitted personal protective equipment (PPE), including compliant riding helmet, long pants, and flat soled shoes or boots with a heel
- checked and fitted gear and equipment for nominated horses, including:
 - saddle
 - saddle cloth
 - bridle
- mounted horse safely
- controlled horse under saddle at all times in the following tasks:
 - demonstrating an effective and balanced riding position at walk, trot and canter
 - using hand, seat and leg aids to safely ride the three gaits and negotiate around obstacles
 - using transitions between gaits
 - following arena figures of circles, straight and diagonal lines and changes of direction
 - rising on the correct diagonal at trot on both reins
 - cantering for a distance of a minimum of 100 metres
 - cantering on correct lead on both reins
 - maintaining appropriate spacing and following 'right of way' rules when riding in a group
 - demonstrating safe emergency stop

- dismounted horse safely
- cleaned, checked and stored gear and equipment according to stable procedures
- reflected on horse performance and reported to supervisor.

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:

- key consideration for assessing horse suitability and matching to own skills
- common horse body language, behaviour and social traits that may affect riding activities
- purpose and use of horse gear that may be used for beginner riders on suitable horses
- purpose, use, correct fit, maintenance and storage of PPE for riding, including:
 - clothing and footwear, including flat soled shoes with a heel
 - riding helmets that comply with current Australian Standards
- purpose of appropriate aids to communicate with a horse
- safe group riding techniques, including:
 - spacing
 - right of way in relation horse pace
 - right of way in relation to direction
- safe horse handling techniques and zones
- key animal welfare principles and practices for interaction with horses and riding, including:
 - low stress techniques related to riding
 - benefits of rider's core balance and fitness
- basic workplace health and safety risk assessment and control principles relating to interacting with horses, riding in an arena and with others
- risk factors that influence riding horse behaviour, including:
 - other horses
 - vehicles, fences and equipment
 - other people or animals
 - wind, noise and environmental hazards
 - riding with others
 - unexpected horse behaviour
- workplace safety and emergency response procedures for horse riding activities, including zones relevant to preparing to ride, riding and returning horse to paddock or yard
- basic indicators of horse health and injury
- reasons for grooming horses prior to fitting gear
- purpose and features of personal protective equipment for riders, to include:
 - clothing
 - footwear
 - helmets, including when to replace.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - enclosed riding environment
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live calm, consistent and obedient horses specified in the performance evidence, assessed as suitable for the assessment of this unit and the individual being assessed
 - other horses with riders
 - appropriate gear for walk, trot and canter riding activities suitable for horse, rider and discipline
 - correctly fitted PPE for the individual, as specified in the performance evidence, including a riding helmet that complies with Australian Standard or equivalent
 - workplace procedures and instructions for riding horses at walk, trot and canter
- relationships:
 - supervisor.

Risk assessments and appropriate risk controls must be undertaken to ensure the safety of all involved in the assessment of this unit.

Horse matching prior to all assessments involving horse interaction is essential. Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and/or assessors must:

- complete, participate in or validate a risk assessment of both the individual being assessed 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 individual being assessed and other participants to ensure that rider and horse combination is safe.

Note – If an employee is being assessed in their workplace, the horse matching above can be replaced with advice from a workplace supervisor that the employee has previously ridden the horse to be used for the assessment, and the horse and rider are suitably matched for the assessment tasks.

The *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training* provides advice and sample templates to assist RTOs, trainers and assessors with risk assessments and related risk controls, including horse and rider matching, that should be undertaken to 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.

The following specific assessor requirements apply to this unit. The assessor must have at least one of the following:

- achieved a recognised horse riding coaching/instruction accreditation (refer to the User Guide)
- experience training and/or assessing beginner level horse riders (refer to the User Guide).

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>