



Australian Government

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.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to control a horse under saddle that is suitably educated for a beginner rider. It focuses on walking, trotting and cantering calm, obedient and consistent horses that are suitable for the level of rider experience, during controlled, supervised horse riding activities.

The unit includes the foundational skills and knowledge required for entry level riding tasks in an equine workplace, including knowledge of potential risks when working with and around horses, to ensure the welfare and safety of the individual, other participants and horses.

The unit applies to individuals who have limited or no horse riding experience, and who are developing skills needed to ride horses. Riding environments may include exercise yards and fenced horse riding areas or arenas.

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

ACMEQU212 Handle horses safely

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>

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1. Prepare for horse riding activity	1.1 Explain own current skill level, riding skill development goals and horse preferences to assist with assignment of a suitable horse 1.2 Identify and confirm with supervisor potential hazards and risks associated with specific location, environment and horse riding activity, and apply control measures as directed 1.3 Identify, confirm and fit personal protective equipment (PPE) required for preparing and riding horse 1.4 Catch, secure, groom and check assigned horse for general health, injuries, hoof damage and loose shoes using safe and low stress horse handling techniques 1.5 Select, check and fit gear allocated to horse 1.6 Present horse and self to supervisor for gear check, stirrup length adjustment and girth tightening prior to mounting
2. Demonstrate controlled riding skills in an enclosed environment	2.1 Mount horse in a safe and balanced manner 2.2 Ride horse through gaits in a balanced and controlled manner 2.3 Use recognised aids, including legs, weight, hands and voice, to control movement, speed and direction of horse at halt, walk, trot and canter 2.4 Cue horse through a range of movements and direction, maintaining control of horse 2.5 Control horse under saddle among other horse and rider combinations, maintaining safe riding practices while performing a variety of basic school movements 2.6 Negotiate potential hazards appropriately to minimise risks 2.7 Undertake emergency stop using a safe technique 2.8 Dismount safely and lead horse in a safe and controlled manner
3. Complete post-riding activities	3.1 Perform post-riding cool down of horse as required 3.2 Remove gear safely, clean it and check its condition, and report to supervisor on condition of gear and horse post-exercise

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
Numeracy	Estimate and measure distance
Oral communication	- Use active listening and open and closed questions to clarify instructions - Use industry terminology to describe horse riding related activities

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU218 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter	ACMEQU206 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter	Prerequisite requirements changed 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 ACMEQU218 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter

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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 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

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