



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU310 Exercise and school 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 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 developed and safely implemented a schooling and exercise program for at least three compliant and manageable horses. Each program must be undertaken in a safe riding environment, and must include at least three separate training sessions. For each horse, the individual must have:

- ridden the horse and assessed level of education, including:
 - response to aids
 - mouth and biting
 - balance
 - fitness
 - suppleness of movement (softness of back)
- developed, agreed and documented a horse schooling and exercise program in consultation with supervisor, including:
 - end use for horse
 - level of end rider skill and ability/fitness
 - duration and cost of program
 - program logistics
- developed and demonstrated exercises showing at least three of the following schooling movements in the horse:
 - accurately complete circles with a 20-metre diameter in trot and canter
 - accurately complete circles with a 15-metre diameter in trot and canter
 - leg yielding type exercise to both left and right
 - turn on forehand to the left and right
 - shoulder in left and right
 - counter canter using left and right lead
 - simple changes through trot and walk

- stop or halt
- turn a horse on hindquarters
- back up.

In addition, as part of the schooling and exercising program for each horse, the individual must have:

- conducted a pre-activity risk assessment
- selected, checked and correctly fitted appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- selected, checked, fitted and used appropriate horse gear and equipment for activity
- applied suitable warm-up methods for horse according to horse and program requirements
- applied industry-accepted riding and schooling techniques, including:
 - maintained effective rein connection
 - controlled horse under saddle at all times and maintained appropriate gait
 - recognised signs of soreness, stress and fatigue
- completed a post-exercise report on:
 - horse behaviour
 - horse physical and mental response to exercise
 - horse progress compared to specific program objectives
 - problems encountered with horse, gear or environment.

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 considerations for assessing horse suitability for schooling program, including:
 - horse age and sex
 - horse history, including previous use and riders
 - response to aids
 - mouth and biting
 - balance
 - fitness
 - level of education
 - suppleness of movement (softness of back)
- key considerations for developing a horse schooling and exercise program, including:
 - current horse fitness and general health, including previous injuries
 - end use for horse
 - level of end rider skill and ability/fitness
 - duration and cost of program
 - program logistics
 - own skills

- key requirements for documenting a horse education program, including horse performance indicators
- key requirements for monitoring and reporting horse progress against a horse education program
- hazard identification, risk assessment, risk control and reporting prior to, during and after horse riding activities
- horse training approaches, methods, techniques, gear and equipment for educating horses in a range of schooling movements, including:
 - accurately complete circles with a 20-metre diameter in trot and canter
 - accurately complete circles with a 15-metre diameter in trot and canter
 - leg yielding type exercise to both left and right
 - turn on forehand to the left and right
 - shoulder in left and right
 - counter canter using left and right lead
 - simple changes through trot, walk
 - stop or halt
 - turn a horse on hindquarters
 - back up
- key health and safety procedures and practices for riding and schooling horses, including:
 - low stress horse handling and riding techniques
 - horse and rider fatigue and stress monitoring
 - appropriate response to reactive horse behaviour
- exercise routines to warm up and cool down horses
- industry-accepted safe horse handling, riding and schooling techniques, including:
 - controlling horse under saddle at all times and maintaining appropriate gait
 - responses to horses becoming over-excited
 - recognising signs of soreness, stress and fatigue
 - positioning of horses relative to other horses during exercise
- types and purpose of PPE required for riding and schooling horses
- types and purpose of gear for exercising and schooling horses, including:
 - types and styles of saddles
 - bits and bridles
 - accessory gear for relevant sector or discipline and schooling
 - saddlecloths
 - boots and bandages
- characteristics of horse gaits.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - a safe horse riding environment
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live horses specified in the performance evidence
 - tools, equipment and a variety of horse gear required for the tasks specified in the performance evidence
 - riding gear and equipment, including PPE for the rider
 - workplace recording and reporting formats
- 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 risk assessment 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:

- recognised horse riding coaching/instruction accreditation (refer to the User Guide)
- experience training and/or assessing other horse riders on techniques for riding and schooling horses (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>