



Australian Government

ACMEQU310 Exercise and school horses

Release: 1

ACMEQU310 Exercise and school 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 required to exercise and school horses under saddle. It involves developing and implementing a training plan to improve the horse's movement, performance and responses to rider aids. It includes knowledge of assessing risks to protect the welfare of people and horses.

The unit applies to individuals who are experienced riders that school and exercise horses. They work under broad direction, applying knowledge and discretion to assess horses, solve problems and meet the requirement of individual horse training programs.

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

The prerequisite unit of competency for this unit is:

- ACMEQU219 Develop riding skills for exercising horses.

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

Unit of competency	Prerequisite requirement
ACMEQU219 Develop riding skills for exercising horses	ACMEQU218 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter
ACMEQU218 Perform horse riding skills at walk, trot and canter	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>
1. Develop horse schooling program	1.1 Confirm horse identification and discuss horse's current level of education and development goals with supervisor 1.2 Prepare horse gear, riding location, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other resources required to ride and assess horse 1.3 Fit PPE and horse gear, ride horse and confirm level of education, in consultation with supervisor if required 1.4 Develop and agree horse education and exercise program in consultation with supervisor
2. Prepare to exercise horse	2.1 Prepare horse gear, riding location, PPE and other resources required to commence horse schooling and exercise 2.2 Identify hazards, assess risks and control and/or report risks prior to handling horses and starting exercise 2.3 Fit PPE for preparing and exercising horse 2.4 Select and fit gear as required according to purpose, features of fit and workplace requirements 2.5 Walk and stretch horse, adjust gear and girth prior to mounting
3. Exercise and school horse	3.1 Mount and warm up horse using simple schooling movements 3.2 Increase intensity of exercise and complexity of movements to develop horse fitness and ability to perform movements, providing regular breaks as required 3.3 Introduce new school movements according to horse and program requirements 3.4 Complete exercise session and warm horse down, allowing to stretch and relax prior to stopping and dismounting
4. Complete post-exercise activities	4.1 Cool down, hose and groom horse after riding according to horse requirements and workplace procedures 4.2 Remove, clean and check gear before storage, and report maintenance issues 4.3 Complete exercise records and report horse performance 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>
	condition to supervisor

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 information relating to workplace procedures, instructions, work plan and weather
Oral communication	- Use active listening and open and closed questions to clarify instructions - Use industry terminology to describe horse exercise activities
Numeracy	Estimate distance, speed and circles during horse riding

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU310 Exercise and school horses	ACMPHR304 Ride and lead performance horses	Redesigned unit that includes new outcomes Prerequisite requirements changed Unit sector changed to EQU 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 ACMEQU310 Exercise and school 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 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

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