



Australian Government

ACMEQU312 Prepare and care for horses to perform at events

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 prepare and care for horses and support team members to perform successfully at horse events. It includes preparing resources for horse events, caring for and gearing up horses during events, and supporting team members to perform at events.

This unit applies to workers who apply technical knowledge and skills with discretion and judgment to interpret horse event regulations and venue requirements to prepare horses and others for events. They work under broad direction, coordinate activities, solve predictable and unpredictable problems, and may have responsibility for highly valuable animals. Work environments may include wash bays, grooming bays, yards and stables, which may also be at competition and event venues.

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, except for the racing industry, where requirements vary between states and territories. Users working in the racing industry are advised to contact the relevant Principal Racing Authority for advice on current requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

ACMEQU212 Handle horses safely

Unit Sector

Equine (EQU)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
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<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Prepare for event	1.1 Confirm event eligibility, location, rules, facilities, timing and horse required 1.2 Identify hazards, and assess and control risks related to health and safety of workers and horse arising from tasks undertaken to prepare for and during event 1.3 Check appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is correctly used by workers involved in tasks undertaken to prepare for and during event 1.4 Check all pre-event washing, grooming and trimming of horse has been completed, in readiness for transport of horse to event 1.5 Review event schedule, and check, clean, adjust and pack horse gear and equipment 1.6 Prepare and pack suitable horse feeds, water, bedding, treatments and related tools, equipment and resources required for the event 1.7 Prepare horse for safe transport to event location and load onto transport vehicle, according to horse requirements and animal welfare legislation
2. Care for horse at event site	2.1 Unload horse from transport vehicle and check for signs of illness, injury and distress 2.2 Ensure horse is fed, watered and rugged as required 2.3 Monitor horse health and check for signs of illness, injury and distress 2.4 Unpack and store equipment safely and securely according to venue and workplace requirements 2.5 Groom horse according to event requirements 2.6 Ensure horse is suitably and safely controlled and secured, taking into account risks posed by other horses 2.7 Move horse safely among people, other horses and vehicles using appropriate low stress handling and risk control practices
3. Gear-up horse for event	3.1 Confirm the time and location horse is required 3.2 Ensure competition or lot numbers are correct and are fitted to horse, handler and/or rider according to competition requirements 3.3 Check gear requirements, and fit and adjust gear to horse 3.4 Complete final check, and spot clean if required 3.5 Present and hand over horse to handler, rider and/or driver

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
4. Provide support during event	4.1 Present self, horse and competitor at event locations on time according to event rules, dress code, official instructions and horse welfare guidelines 4.2 Assist competitors and team members before, during and after the performance to meet event rules and venue requirements
5. Complete post-event care	5.1 Check horse for signs of illness, injury or distress, and action and/or report as required 5.2 Cool down horse post-event performance and remove event gear 5.3 Remove and/or brush out plaits, braids, makeup, hoof dressing and studs as required in a timely manner after event 5.4 Provide horse with shelter, feed and water, and monitor horse, taking into account individual horse requirements and weather conditions 5.5 Clean and store horse gear and related event equipment 5.6 Check quantity and quality of horse feed, water, bedding and grooming products, and action as required

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 event rules and event venue requirements
Oral communication	Use industry terminology to describe horse event requirements and activities
Numeracy	Measure and calculate time, distance, temperature, area, weight, volume and ratios

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU312 Prepare and care for horses to perform at events	ACMEQU211 Prepare horses for competition, presentation or sale	Redesigned unit that includes content from <i>ACMPHR303 Participate in horse events and activities</i> , and <i>ACMEQU211 Prepare horses for competition, presentation or sale</i> Elements 3 and 5 added	Not equivalent
ACMEQU312 Prepare and care for horses to perform at events	ACMPHR303 Participate in horse events and activities	Redesigned unit that includes content from <i>ACMPHR303 Participate in horse events and activities</i> , and <i>ACMEQU211 Prepare horses for competition, presentation or sale</i> 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 ACMEQU312 Prepare and care for horses to perform at events

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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 prepared and cared for at least two different compliant and manageable horses to perform at an event, organised by a recognised horse association.

In preparing and caring for the two horses at the event, the individual must have:

- identified at least three hazards related to horse transport and accommodation at the event, and assessed and controlled their risk
- identified at least three hazards related to horse performance activity at the event, and assessed and controlled their risk
- used safe and low stress horse handling techniques and practices
- prepared each horse to meet event presentation and performance requirements, including:
 - attired horse and rider or driver and/or handler
 - identified and prepared horse gear and equipment required for event or activity
 - groomed and/or strapped to event or activity
 - fitted and adjusted horse gear and equipment according to event rules
 - worn appropriate event attire in a professional manner
- cared for horse during event, including:
 - unloaded horse from transport vehicle upon arrival and secured at event location
 - feeding, watering, and basic welfare and health checks
 - timely removal of event gear and grooming products after event performance
- complied with official instructions and conduct requirements during the event.

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:

- typical event procedures for at least two different horse events organised by recognised horse associations, including horse biosecurity and traceability requirements
- grooming requirements and techniques for at least two different horse breed standards and related competition requirements
- horse gear requirements and fitting techniques for at least two different horse breed standards and related event or competition requirements
- reasons for trimming horses, and considerations affecting what to trim, including:
 - breed and/or event requirements
 - impact on horse health and welfare
 - timing in relation to event preparation and performance
- personal presentation requirements of horse handlers, riders or drivers for at least two horse events organised by recognised horse associations
- key features of animal welfare and legal requirements related to horse handling, transport, accommodation and performance activities at horse events
- key principles of time management related to horse events
- key principles for caring for horses during an event
- key features of formats, rules and regulations for at least the two different horse events organised by recognised horse associations, including:
 - location of event office and how to access the current venue and/or event rules
 - scheduling and activity location/s
 - gear and equipment guidelines
 - prohibited substances, including those occurring in health treatments and feed supplements
 - peak association and/or organisation event requirements
 - venue requirements to clean and tidy area occupied by participants at event
- confidentiality requirements regarding individual horses
- event performance-related health issues, including those related to:
 - tying-up
 - tendon strain
 - fatigue
 - dehydration
 - transport
 - stress
- signs of common horse ailments and injuries
- key features of horse related biosecurity and infection control procedures
- common workplace health and safety requirements and practices related to horse events, including:
 - hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control and reporting
 - key requirements of work health and safety legislation
 - types and purpose of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - handling horses and working with horses in confined spaces, arenas and public spaces
 - safe storage, handling and disposal of treatments and cleaning agents

- reporting incidents and accidents
- horse handling and restraint equipment used for preparing and presenting horses for events
- animal welfare relating to the safe, humane and ethical care of horses at events.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - a horse event setting that involves other horses, or an environment that accurately represents a horse event setting that involves other horses
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live horses specified in the performance evidence, assessed as suitable for the assessment of this unit and the individual being assessed
 - tools, equipment, products, feed and supplies required for the tasks specified in the performance evidence, including PPE
 - horse gear that meets the requirements of the two events selected in the performance evidence
- specifications:
 - competition or event rules required for the events selected in the performance evidence
 - workplace procedures and instructions for preparing horses for participation in events, including guidelines for the safe handling of horse at competitions or events.
- relationships:
 - rider or driver and/or handler specified in the performance evidence.

The *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training* provides advice and sample templates to assist assessors with horse and rider matching, including 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

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>