



Australian Government

ACMEQU404 Evaluate fit of saddlery and associated equipment

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to evaluate the fit of saddlery and equipment for individual horses for a range of horse activities.

The unit applies to individuals who have responsibility for assessing the fit, condition and suitability of saddlery and equipment for a particular purpose across equine industry sectors.

No licensing 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.

Work health and safety and animal welfare legislation relevant to interacting with horses applies to workers in this industry. Requirements vary between industry sectors and state/territory jurisdictions. Users are advised to check with the relevant authority for specific requirements.

NOTE: The terms ‘occupational health and safety’ (OHS) and ‘work health and safety’ (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Equine (EQU)

Elements and 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>

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1. Relate saddlery and equipment design and condition to purpose and safety considerations	1.1 Identify saddlery and associated equipment used in horse activities 1.2 Relate saddlery and associated equipment design and purpose to horse activities 1.3 Identify safety aspects of saddlery and associated equipment used in various horse activities 1.4 Identify saddlery and associated equipment suitable for different levels of rider experience 1.5 Identify condition and assess stress and wear points of saddlery and equipment 1.6 Outline hazards, risks and controls associated with saddlery and associated equipment 1.7 Review workplace maintenance practices for potential improvements to arrangements
2. Ensure horse comfort in relation to saddlery and associated equipment use	2.1 Evaluate and relate the conformational, breed and developmental characteristics of horses to the fit of saddlery and associated equipment 2.2 Evaluate the impact of the shape and size of a rider and load on horse balance and comfort 2.3 Evaluate the shape and size of the rider and the impact on the balance and comfort of the horse 2.4 Interpret horse behavioural and physical signs relevant to both correctly fitted and incorrectly fitted saddlery and associated equipment 2.5 Interpret rider physical signs relevant to correctly fitted and incorrectly fitted saddlery and associated equipment 2.6 Evaluate materials and techniques used in the construction of saddlery and associated equipment for horse and rider comfort and durability
3. Assess the fit of saddles, bridles and associated equipment	3.1 Apply saddle fitting tools and techniques to determine appropriate saddle size and shape, and document results 3.2 Evaluate and report the fit of a saddle for horse, rider and activity

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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>
	3.3 Evaluate and report the fit of bridles 3.4 Evaluate and report on a range of bits relevant to specific purposes 3.5 Identify and implement options for adjusting saddlery and associated equipment for improved horse and rider comfort and safety
4. Assess the fit of accessory equipment	4.1 Assess and report fit of saddle mounts 4.2 Assess and report fit of accessory gear 4.3 Assess and report fit of boots and bandages 4.4 Identify, implement and discuss options for adjusting accessory tack and equipment for improved horse and rider comfort and safety

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
Navigate the world of work	- Take responsibility for complying with work health and safety and animal welfare requirements - Work independently and collectively within broad parameters and meet expectations relating to own role and responsibilities
Interact with others	- Use communication practices and protocols suitable for liaising with a range of personnel - Use clear language appropriate for audience when reporting and sharing information about saddlery, associated equipment and safety
Get the work done	- Assemble resources, and plan and prioritise tasks to achieve outcomes - Make decisions about routine and non-routine activities, taking responsibility for assessing risks relating to saddlery and equipment and control actions taken

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU404 Evaluate fit of saddlery and associated equipment	ACMEQU404A Evaluate fit of saddlery and equipment	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages	Equivalent unit

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 ACMEQU404 Evaluate fit of saddlery and associated equipment

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency in this unit must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria of this unit.

There must be evidence that the individual evaluated the fit of a range of saddlery and associated equipment on at least three different horses of varying size and shape with different accessory needs, including:

- assessing construction, purpose and suitability of saddlery and equipment for horse, rider and activity
- assessing fit and condition of saddlery and associated equipment and making recommendations on adjustments and maintenance
- using safe work practices around horses and assessing risks to riders, horses and self in relation to saddlery and equipment.

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:

- saddlery and associated equipment, including:
 - range available, including designs, styles, materials and purpose
 - saddlery and associated equipment relevant to different horse activities
- anatomical and physiological structures, features and functions of the horse related to the fit of saddlery and equipment
- safety aspects, including:
 - safety devices, systems and technologies relevant to saddlery and associated equipment
 - rider levels of experience
 - checking and maintaining saddlery and associated equipment
 - risk assessment and control
 - safe horse handling techniques

- safe manual handling, including lifting and storing height of saddles
- personal protective equipment (PPE)
- industry terminology related to saddlery and associated equipment fit and purpose
- recognising correct and incorrectly fitted saddles for horse and rider, including:
 - saddles
 - girths
 - surcingles
 - stirrup leathers
 - stirrup irons
 - horse behaviour relevant to correctly and incorrectly fitted saddlery
 - rider physical signs relevant to correctly and incorrectly fitted saddlery
- correct and incorrectly fitted associated equipment for horse and rider, including:
 - bridles
 - bits
 - breastplates
 - cruppers
 - nosebands
 - horse behaviour relevant to correctly and incorrectly fitted equipment
 - rider physical signs relevant to correctly and incorrectly fitted equipment
- tools and techniques for fitting saddles, bridles, bits, boots and bandages
- methods used to adjust fit of saddlery and associated equipment
- industry or discipline guidelines, requirements or rules for saddlery and associated equipment
- professional saddle-fitting contractors
- key requirements of biosecurity standards and workplace hygiene relating to saddlery and equipment
- key principles and practices of animal welfare relating to use and comfort of saddlery and equipment, and humane and ethical handling of horses.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of saddlery and associated equipment suited to different activities
 - various horses of different breeds and ages fitted with saddlery and equipment to check and adjust assessed as suitable for the skill and experience of the individual.

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training*.

Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.

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