



Australian Government

ACMEQU406 Manage selection of horse for new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver

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 in horse behaviour and learning to manage the suitable selection of horses for new and/or inexperienced handlers, riders or drivers.

The unit applies to individuals who are horse instructors, coaches or supervisors with work health and safety responsibilities and obligations to workers, learners and participants in their care.

No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

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

The prerequisite unit of competency for this unit is:

- ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour.

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. Develop knowledge of horse behaviour and learning theory	1.1 Evaluate current, evidence-based learning theory and techniques used in horse training and behaviour management 1.2 Apply knowledge of horse training and behaviour to evaluate own horses as suitable for use by new and/or inexperienced handlers, riders or drivers 1.3 Review own practices against current learning theory to determine if any improvements could be made to managing horse behaviour for workplace activities
2. Assess horse suitability for purpose	2.1 Identify factors to consider for conducting a fit-for-purpose assessment of a horse to address work health and safety (WHS) requirements 2.2 Develop or modify a tool to identify and record horse characteristics and behaviour and assess horse suitability for specified activities 2.3 Observe and assess horses to determine their characteristics and behaviour in a range of activities, conditions and stimuli relevant to activities to be undertaken by new and/or inexperienced handlers, riders or drivers 2.4 Evaluate outcomes of the assessment and record an activity suitability rating for individual horses in relation to the handler, rider or driver skills according to workplace procedures 2.5 Conduct additional horse assessments over time and in response to different scenarios, recording incidents and observing responses of the horse to ensure currency of horse suitability records
3. Assess skills of new worker or participant	3.1 Conduct an induction briefing covering workplace rules and new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver responsibilities and obligations, prior to their commencing activities 3.2 Identify factors to consider, and develop or modify a tool to assess new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver skills and capabilities for specific activities involving a horse 3.3 Assess new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver readiness and current knowledge of horse handling, riding or driving 3.4 Conduct a practical assessment of new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver with a quiet, consistent and obedient horse in a safe and controlled environment 3.5 Determine new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver capability rating objectively against criteria in an appropriate tool,

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	and record according to workplace procedures
4. Match horse to new worker or participant for specific activity	4.1 Establish a range of safe activities that can be used to assess the suitable matching of horse to new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver 4.2 Conduct activities to determine suitable matching of horse to new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver 4.3 Discuss with new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver their capabilities 4.4 Address any concerns from new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver, including any unrealistic expectations or beliefs they may have about their own abilities or that of the horse
5. Monitor new worker or participant and horse behaviour	5.1 Observe new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver for any signs of mismatch with horse, inappropriate behaviour or control issues with selected horse, and take action to address these 5.2 Monitor horse, including patterns of inappropriate behaviour, and determine action required 5.3 Implement ongoing monitoring activities to identify problems and appropriate courses of action

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 critical information in horse records and records of work experience or training provided by new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver
Writing	Use clear language and accurate industry terminology for recording information about horses and skills of new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver
Oral communication	Convey information clearly using tone and pace appropriate to audience

Skill	Description
Navigate the world of work	Follow workplace procedures, including work health and safety (WHS) and animal welfare requirements, and meet expectations relating to own role and area of responsibility
Interact with others	Conduct induction briefings, conveying information to others according to industry practices and WHS requirements and duty of care obligations
Get the work done	Prepare resources and materials to match horse and handlers, riders or drivers, and schedule and sequence activities in logical order

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU406 Manage selection of horse for new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver	Not applicable	New unit	No 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 ACMEQU406 Manage selection of horse for new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver

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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 has managed the selection and matching of horses for at least three riders, handlers or drivers, consisting of new or inexperienced, and experienced, capable riders, handlers or drivers, including:

- testing horses through riding, handling and/or driving activities and observations to determine levels of behaviour, reactions and education to categorise them according to workplace assessment ratings and procedures
- assessing new or inexperienced handlers, riders or drivers with quiet, consistent and obedient horses to determine their skill levels and abilities
- allocating handlers, riders or drivers to suitable horses and appropriate activities once assessed
- monitoring suitability of horse and handler, rider and/or driver to workplace activity involving horses, with reference to safety of individual and horse wellbeing
- responding to problems by changing the horse, educating the handlers, riders and/or drivers, and/or changing activities to ensure the safety of participants and horses.

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:

- factors to consider in determining handler, rider or driver skills and experience
- factors to consider in assessment of horse suitability (fit-for-purpose):
 - experience and training
 - temperament and behaviour
 - horse reactivity to normal, abnormal and new situations
- types of mismatch between horse and participant
- potential consequences of inappropriately matched horses and handlers, riders or drivers:
 - horses displaying avoidance or dangerous behaviours

- rider, handler or driver loses control of the horse and/or loses confidence
- injuries to rider, handler, driver or horse
- ongoing horse problems and appropriate courses of action, including removal and/or retraining.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
 - safe, controlled environment for practical skills assessment of new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - various horses to be assessed for suitability
 - appropriate gear and tack for horses for handling, riding or driving assessment
 - personal protective equipment (PPE), correctly fitted and applicable to activity
- relationships:
 - opportunities to assess skills and capabilities of handlers, riders or drivers with varying levels of experience.

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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