



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU419 Evaluate saddlery and gear fit for horse and rider combination

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:

- assessed the fit of saddlery and gear for at least three different rider and horse combinations, selected from three of the following categories:
 - all-purpose recreational riding activity
 - sport discipline activity requiring a specific saddle and gear
 - work activity – western or stock saddle, or pack saddle
 - child or youth saddle suitable for ponies
 - riding for the disabled.

For each rider and horse combination, the individual must have:

- assessed safety, condition, purpose and suitability of saddlery and gear
- assessed fit of saddlery and gear for rider and horse comfort and safety, and made recommendations on fitting adjustments and maintenance
- used safe work practices around horses and assessed risks to riders, horses and self in relation to saddlery and gear
- communicated and interacted effectively with at least two different riders and their coaches, where appropriate.

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:

- main components of saddlery and gear, including:
 - saddles
 - girths and surcingles
 - breastplates and martingales

- cruppers
- stirrup leathers
- stirrup irons
- bits
- bridles
- reins
- boots and bandages
- fundamentals of saddlery and gear, including:
 - main design features
 - types of materials used
 - maintenance and care
 - gear requirements for different sport disciplines, including competition at different levels where relevant
 - safety gear for riders, including boots, helmet, body protection
 - techniques for adjusting fit of saddlery and gear
- safety aspects of saddlery and gear, including:
 - safety devices and technologies
 - checking and maintaining condition and wear
- safe work practices when interacting with horses, including:
 - hazards and signs of caution
 - risk assessment and control
 - safe horse handling techniques
 - rider/horse matching techniques and tools
 - safe manual handling, including lifting saddlery and gear
 - personal protective equipment (PPE)
- safe environments for assessing fit of gear, including:
 - flat surface for static assessment
 - controlled or enclosed arena or property for ridden assessment
 - consideration of proximity to roads and the public
- basic horse musculoskeletal features and biomechanics related to fit of saddlery and associated gear
- features to observe in horses to determine correct fit of saddle and associated gear, including:
 - gait, stance and symmetry
 - conformation, posture
 - behaviour, facial expressions, vocalisation
- recognising correct and incorrectly fitted gear, including:
 - horse behaviour and physical signs
 - rider physical position and posture and effects on horse movement and comfort
- criteria for assessing saddle fit, including:

- balance
- wither clearance
- channel width
- panel contact
- girth point
- saddle length and straightness
- saddle tree angle and width
- criteria for assessing bit and bridle fit, including:
 - correct bit type for sport or intended activity
 - correct size of bit/mouthpiece
 - position and tension of bit in mouth
 - position and tension of noseband and straps
- techniques for working with riders and coaches, including clear communication, collaborative interactions and client confidentiality
- professional saddle and bit and bridle-fitters, and repairers and/or manufacturers
- key requirements of biosecurity standards and workplace hygiene relating to saddlery and gear
- key principles and practices of animal welfare relating to use and comfort of saddlery and gear, and humane and ethical handling of horses.

Assessment Conditions

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

- physical conditions:
 - an equine workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - a range of saddlery and gear as specified in the performance evidence
 - various live horses, assessed as suitable for the experience and skill of the individual, fitted with saddlery and gear
- relationships:
 - riders as specified in the performance evidence.

The *Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training* provides advice and sample templates to assist assessors with 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>