



Australian Government

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.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to evaluate the fit of saddlery and gear for individual riders and horses for a range of horse sport or work activities. It can apply to other domestic equines that are ridden.

The unit applies to individuals who have responsibility for assessing the fit, condition and suitability of saddles and gear for rider and horse safety and comfort. They work autonomously, use judgment in the selection and use of equipment, and provide and communicate solutions for predictable and unpredictable problems.

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

Nil

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. Relate saddlery and gear design and	1.1 Identify main components, design features and purpose of saddlery and gear for a range of horse sport disciplines or work activities

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 purpose and safety considerations	1.2 Identify hazards and safety issues associated with saddlery and gear components 1.3 Determine rider physical characteristics, experience, requirements and intended riding purpose 1.4 Identify saddlery and gear suitable for different levels of rider experience 1.5 Assess condition and safety of saddlery and gear, identifying areas of stress, wear points and damage 1.6 Provide advice on options for maintaining, repairing or replacing saddlery and gear for rider and horse safety
2. Assess horse comfort in relation to fit of saddlery and gear	2.1 Relate horse breed, conformation and developmental characteristics to fit of saddlery and gear 2.2 Relate horse fitness and exercise level, and intended sport discipline or work activity, to fit of saddlery and associated gear 2.3 Establish a safe place to assess static and ridden fit of gear 2.4 Assess and control risks associated with interacting with horses in close proximity when checking condition and fit of saddlery and gear 2.5 Check correct placement and fit of saddle, bit and bridle on horse 2.6 Examine horse for signs indicating pain or discomfort relevant to fit of saddle and associated gear using palpation and observation techniques 2.7 Determine need for adjustments to saddle and associated gear with rider and make necessary fitting adjustments prior to horse being ridden
3. Assess suitability of saddlery and gear for rider and horse	3.1 Confirm rider wears required safety and personal protective gear prior to mounting horse 3.2 Observe rider in saddle when static and assess posture, leg position and balance 3.3 Observe rider position, balance and stability when riding in different gaits 3.4 Observe horse balance, movement and comfort in movement under saddle when ridden 3.5 Request feedback from rider, and coach where available, and interpret issues relating to fit of saddlery and gear 3.6 Assess and report fit of saddle mount, bit and bridle, and other

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	accessory gear, where relevant 3.7 Provide advice on options for adjusting saddlery for safety and improved rider and horse comfort, and make adjustments or referrals as required 3.8 Record key information about rider and horse according to workplace requirements

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
Writing	Complete workplace documentation using industry terminology in print-based and/or digital formats
Oral communication	- Use questioning and listening skills to elicit information and confirm and clarify understanding - Use language and tone appropriate for audience
Numeracy	Estimate measurements of horse and rider physical characteristics with reasonable accuracy, including height and weight

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU419 Evaluate saddlery and gear fit for horse and rider combination	ACMEQU404 Evaluate fit of saddlery and associated equipment	Title changed Performance Criteria updated for clarity, with some new, merged and removed to reflect intent of unit Foundation Skills table updated	Not equivalent

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

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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:

- 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.

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