



Australian Government

ACMEQU420 Fit and adjust bits and bridles

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 select and fit bits and bridles for individual horses and riders for range of horse sport or work activities.

The unit applies to individuals who assess requirements and provide bit and bridle fitting services. 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. Maintain currency of knowledge of bits and bridles	1.1 Identify design features and components of bits and bridles used for a range of horse sport disciplines, work activities and levels of rider experience 1.2 Evaluate materials and durability of bits and bridles 1.3 Apply techniques for assembling, cleaning and maintaining bit and

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	bridle components 1.4 Assess safety features and issues associated with bits and bridles 1.5 Review current science and research about fitting bits and bridles for improved horse comfort, performance and safety
2. Identify rider and horse requirements	2.1 Determine client requirements, riding experience and intended use of horse 2.2 Identify overall horse characteristics, size, age and level of education 2.3 Request information on concerns or problems related to bit and bridle fit and horse behaviour
3. Assess fit of existing bit and bridle	3.1 Select and fit personal protective equipment (PPE) 3.2 Assess and control risks associated with interacting with horses in close proximity 3.2 Approach and interact with horse using safe, low stress handling techniques and secure as required 3.3 Examine horse for signs indicating pain, discomfort or inappropriate fit of existing bit and bridle 3.4 Observe horse being ridden and identify behaviours indicating issues with fit of existing bit and bridle 3.5 Provide options to client for improving fit of bit and bridle, including adjustments to existing gear or new gear components
4. Examine horse and select bit and bridle components	4.1 Check horse mouth and dentition to determine bit fitting issues and advise on referral to veterinarian or equine dental technician if required 4.2 Estimate or measure size of horse mouth using an appropriate tool, bit measure or existing bit 4.3 Select appropriate size of bit, taking into consideration bit style and ring size and thickness of cheek pieces 4.4 Select bit style to suit intended activity, and rider ability and needs to optimise individual horse comfort and movement 4.5 Examine key anatomical features of head, including skull, jaw, nasal bones and mouth, estimating sizes relevant for bridle component selection 4.6 Select bridle components suitable for individual horse, intended

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	activity and client requirements
5. Fit bit and bridle and make adjustments	5.1 Position bridle on horse and adjust components to ensure a comfortable fit 5.2 Fit bit appropriate for individual horse and intended activity, and check for correct position in mouth 5.3 Select, fit and adjust reins to suit rider characteristics 5.4 Evaluate fit of bit and bridle on horse while static 5.5 Observe horse when being ridden in different gaits to determine correct fit of bit and bridle, and make required adjustments 5.6 Determine and select add-on accessories for rider and horse safety and comfort, in collaboration with client
6. Finalise fitting service	6.1 Confirm selection of bit and bridle with client 6.2 Complete horse and client records according to organisational practice 6.3 Finalise invoice, transaction or service arrangements 6.4 Provide client follow-up service as required or agreed

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 format
Oral communication	- Use questioning and listening skills to elicit information and confirm and clarify understanding - Use language and tone appropriate for audience to convey information
Numeracy	- Take accurate measurements in centimetres (metric) and inches (imperial) - Estimate measurements using finger/hand spacing or improvised tools

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU420 Fit and adjust bits and bridles	Not applicable	The unit has been created to address a skill or task required by industry	Newly created

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 ACMEQU420 Fit and adjust bits and bridles

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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:

- investigated the range of bit and bridle designs and summarised key features, advantages and disadvantages of the following types:
 - English style – general/all-purpose bits and bridles
 - dressage bits and bridles
 - Western/stock style bits and bridles
 - jumping bits and bridles
- assessed an existing bit and/or bridle combination on three different horses, and provided options for changes/adjustments to meet current horse or rider needs
- assessed requirements for at least three different horses and selected and correctly fitted an appropriate bit and/or bridle combination for:
 - an all-purpose recreational riding activity
 - two different sport discipline or work activities
- communicated and interacted effectively with at least two different clients
- used safe work practices around horses, and assessed risks to riders, horses and self in relation to fitting gear.

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:

- horse headwear components, including:
 - mouthpiece/bar
 - cheek pieces or rings
 - chin strap
 - curb strap/chain

- noseband
- crown piece
- browband
- throatlatch
- reins
- anatomy of horse head, including:
 - skull, and facial, trigeminal and glossopharyngeal nerves
 - jaw, bar and infraorbital nerve
 - nasal bones and cheek bones (zygomatic ridge)
 - mouth, pallet, tongue
 - teeth and dentition, including Triadan system for identifying teeth
 - neck – cervical spine
- types and features of bridles related to riding discipline or purpose, including:
 - English style general/all-purpose
 - dressage
 - Western/stock
 - jumping
- rules and guidelines for bridles and bits in key horse sport disciplines
- types and range of direct action cheek pieces, including:
 - Loose Ring
 - Eggbutt
 - Dee Ring
 - Full Cheek
 - Loose Ring Fulmer
 - Baucher/Hanging Cheek/Drop Cheek
- types and range of leverage cheek pieces (*denotes Western terminology), including:
 - Dutch Gag
 - 2.5 Ring
 - Bevel/Wilkie
 - Williams
 - Kimblewick
 - Swivel/Cartwheel
 - Elevator
 - Pelham
 - Weymouth
 - Cheltenham/Balding/Nelson Gag
 - Shank Bit*
 - Grazing Bit*
 - Western Tom Thumb*
- types and range of mouthpieces, including:

- Single Jointed
- French Link
- Lozenge Link
- Barrel Link
- Ported Mullen Mouth/Cambridge Mouth
- Straight Mullen Mouth/Flexible Mullen Mouth
- Waterford
- Rollers
- range of bit materials, including:
 - metal – nickel plated, stainless steel, copper alloy, brass, sweet iron
 - non-metallic – nylon, plastic, rubber, leather
- types of bit and bridle accessories, including:
 - comfort/padding additions
 - bit guards/rubbers
 - leather strapping
- markers indicating correct and comfortable fit of bit and bridle for horse, including:
 - comfortable mouth movement (within normal parameters)
 - appropriate range of motion of head
 - correct height in mouth in relation to teeth
- indicators requiring further investigation of issues, including:
 - horse facial features indicating pain
 - gaping mouth
 - chewing on bit
 - discolouration of tongue
- health and safety hazards and controls when working in close proximity with horses, including:
 - use of safe, low stress handling techniques and restraints
 - use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - position and horse safety zones
- techniques for working with clients, including clear communication, collaborative interactions and client confidentiality
- key requirements of biosecurity and workplace hygiene relating to bits and bridles, including:
 - mouth rinse for horses and disinfection chemicals and processes
 - protocols for sharing gear
 - zoonotic and infectious diseases, including those caused by bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses
- key principles and practices of animal welfare relating to use and comfort of 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 bits and bridles as specified in the performance evidence
 - PPE appropriate for handler and activity
 - live horses of varying size and shape, assessed as suitable for the skill and experience of the individual, as specified in the performance evidence
- relationships:
 - rider and/or client.

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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