



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU421 Provide saddle fitting and adjustment services

Release: 1

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU421 Provide saddle fitting and adjustment services

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:

- investigated the range of current saddle designs and availability, and summarised key features, advantages and disadvantages of the following saddle types:
 - English style – general/all-purpose saddle
 - dressage saddle
 - jumping saddle
 - Australian stock saddle
 - Western style saddle
 - racing pads/exercise saddle
 - half breed saddle (cross between Australian stock saddle and Western saddle)
 - one other special purpose saddle
- assessed client needs and requirements for at least three horses of different sizes and shapes, and selected and correctly fitted an appropriate saddle for:
 - an all-purpose recreational riding activity
 - two different sport discipline or work activities
- assessed two existing saddles used for different horses and purposes, and made adjustments to the saddle to meet current horse and/or rider needs, including:
 - fitting adjustments
 - reflocking to balance the saddle
- 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:

- different saddle designs and features related to riding discipline or purpose, including:
 - English style – general purpose saddle
 - dressage saddle
 - jumping saddle
 - Australian stock saddle
 - Western style saddle
 - racing pads/exercise saddles
 - half breed saddle (cross between Australian stock saddle and Western saddle)
 - special purpose saddles
- basics of saddle construction, including:
 - types and benefits and limitations of leather and synthetic materials
 - key aspects of manufacturing process
 - main types of saddle tree shapes
 - panel materials
- saddle components and their purpose, including (*denotes Western terminology):
 - saddle tree
 - pommel or swell*
 - cantle
 - seat
 - flaps
 - girth, cinch*, surcingle*
 - girth points
 - stirrups and stirrup leathers
 - panels and lining and padding types
 - knee or thigh rolls, blocks
 - accessories – monkey grip or horn*
- equine musculoskeletal anatomy related to saddle fitting, including:
 - neck – cervical spine
 - withers
 - shoulder/scapula and scapula cartilage
 - sternum
 - barrel – thoracic spine
 - last rib
 - rump – lumbar spine
 - main muscles – trapezius, latissimus dorsi, triceps and pectoralis muscles
 - cranial nerve

- criteria for assessing saddle fit, including:
 - rider seat, balance and centre of gravity
 - wither clearance
 - channel width
 - panel contact
 - girth point
 - saddle length and straightness
 - saddle tree angle and width
- dangers of unsafe saddlery
- rider characteristics to consider in selecting a saddle, including:
 - physical characteristics influencing seat size, load, stirrup placement
 - riding experience
 - intended use of horse – work activity or sport discipline
- indicators requiring further investigation of issues, including:
 - horse facial features indicating pain
 - horse moving down and away from pain when touched
 - disuse atrophy
 - swelling, bumps or deformities on spine
 - white or ruffled hair or saddle sores
 - horse bloating or biting when girthed
 - horse stiff and slow to warm up
 - horse having trouble going up and downhill
 - bucking, rearing, and resistance
 - bending, leading issues
- process and materials used for reflocking panels and adjusting saddle trees in existing saddles, including:
 - panel materials – air or Cair (trademark), latex, foam, pure wool, wool blend, polyester wadding, combination of materials
 - tools – long nose pliers, flocking iron, hook, masher, awls, needles and thread
 - techniques to flock a saddle, including removing or dropping a panel, spot flocking/stuffing padding through slits, basic unstitching and restitching
 - realignment of saddle trees using thermal or cold adjustment techniques
- safe equine interactions and handling techniques, including:
 - safety zones for interacting with equines
 - use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - safe body positioning working in close proximity
 - equine behaviour – herd behaviour and unpredictable reactions
 - safety of others, including bystanders
 - importance of using appropriate handling and restraint techniques and minimising stress to horse and risks to self and others

- techniques for working with clients, including clear communication, collaborative interactions and client confidentiality
- key requirements of biosecurity standards and workplace hygiene relating to gear
- 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 saddles and associated equipment as specified in the performance evidence
 - personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for handler and activity
 - live horses of varying size and shape, assessed as suitable for the experience and skill 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.

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>