



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for ACMEQU423 Manage selection of horse for 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 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:

- recorded observations for at least three different horses and assessed behaviour and education level to determine a suitability (fit-for-purpose) rating – one horse must be assessed on two different occasions covering different circumstances that could impact behaviour
- assessed the experience and skills and managed the selection and matching of horses for:
 - at least two new or inexperienced participants (riders, handlers or drivers)
 - at least one experienced, capable participant (rider, handler or driver)
- monitored the suitability of horse match with each participant for the workplace activity, with reference to safety of individual and horse wellbeing.

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:

- behavioural characteristics of horses, including:
 - handled and unhandled horses
 - herd behaviour
 - stabled or yarded horses
- horse behaviour, including:
 - responses to environmental stimuli
 - body language and vocalisations
 - herd behaviour, including separation and bonding
 - affective states, including fear, anxiety, hunger, fatigue
 - behaviours and conditions typically linked to strong fight-or-flight response

- unwanted and high-risk behaviours, including biting, kicking, bolting, rearing, bucking and shying
- fundamentals of horse learning theory and application to horse behaviour and suitability assessment
- factors to consider in determining handler, rider or driver skills and experience
- factors to consider in assessment of horse suitability (fit-for-purpose), including:
 - experience and level of education
 - temperament and behaviour
 - size, age and gender
 - horse reactivity to normal, abnormal and new situations
 - suitability for tasks or activities horse is required to undertake
- types of mismatch between horse and participant
- potential consequences of inappropriately matched horses and handlers, riders or drivers, including:
 - 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
- potential problems and appropriate courses of action, including:
 - changing, removing and/or retraining horses
 - educating handlers, riders or drivers
 - changing activities to ensure the safety of participants and horses
- key requirements of regulations, codes of practice and workplace policies and procedures for:
 - work, health and safety when interacting with horses
 - animal welfare relevant to 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
 - safe, controlled environment for practical skills assessment of participants specified in the performance evidence
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - live horses to be assessed for suitability as specified in the performance evidence
 - templates or records designed to match horses to handlers, riders or drivers
 - appropriate gear for horses
 - personal protective equipment (PPE), correctly fitted and applicable to activity
- specifications:

- relevant workplace policies and procedures, and animal welfare legislation and codes of practice
- relationships:
 - participants with varying levels of experience 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>