



Australian Government

ACMEQU423 Manage selection of horse for handler, rider or driver

Release: 1

ACMEQU423 Manage selection of horse for handler, rider or driver

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 to manage the suitable selection of horses for handlers, riders or drivers (referred to as participants). It involves the application of theoretical knowledge of horse behaviour and learning to ensure safety in the workplace.

The unit applies to supervisors working in horse operations who have supervisory and health and safety responsibilities for selecting and matching horses appropriate for the skills of participants in their care. These individuals need to have the skills and knowledge to assess requirements relevant to horse handling, riding or driving.

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. Assess horse suitability for purpose	1.1 Identify factors to consider for conducting a fit-for-purpose assessment of horse to address current health and safety requirements

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.2 Record horse characteristics and behaviour, and assess horse suitability for specified activities using an appropriate tool 1.3 Observe and assess horse in a range of conditions and stimuli relevant to activities to be undertaken by participants 1.4 Evaluate assessment outcomes and rate individual horse suitability for the activity according to workplace procedures 1.5 Conduct additional horse assessments over time and in varying conditions, recording incidents and observing horse responses to ensure currency of horse suitability records
2. Assess skills of handler, rider or driver	2.1 Conduct an induction briefing covering workplace rules and participant responsibilities and obligations 2.2 Identify and record criteria to consider in determining capability of participant to undertake specific activities involving horse 2.3 Assess readiness and current horse behaviour knowledge of participant 2.4 Conduct practical assessment of participant with horse suitable for activity in a safe and controlled environment 2.5 Determine and record participant capability rating objectively against criteria using appropriate tool
3. Match horse to handler, rider or driver for specific activity	3.1 Establish safe activities to assess and match suitability of horse and participant 3.2 Conduct activities to determine suitable matching of horse for participant 3.3 Discuss assessment outcome and capabilities with participant 3.4 Address concerns or expectations participant may have about their own abilities or of horse
4. Monitor handler, rider or driver and horse behaviour	4.1 Observe participant for any signs of mismatch with horse, inappropriate behaviour, or control issues with selected horse, and take action to address 4.2 Monitor horse behaviour and determine if action is required 4.3 Implement ongoing monitoring activities to identify problems and appropriate courses of action 4.4 Implement alternative arrangements if participant and horse combination is not suitable

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
Reading	Access and interpret key information in horse and personnel records
Writing	- Use objective industry terminology for describing and recording horse behaviour and characteristics, and appropriate language and descriptions in personnel records - Complete workplace forms using print-based and/or digital formats
Oral communication	Use language, tone and pace appropriate for audience when participating in verbal exchanges

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU423 Manage selection of horse for handler, rider or driver	ACMEQU406 Manage selection of horse for new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver	Title changed Prerequisite and Element 1 removed Changes to Performance Criteria and terminology for clarity Foundation Skills table updated Knowledge Evidence updated with increased knowledge of horse behaviour to address removal of prerequisite	Not equivalent

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 ACMEQU423 Manage selection of horse for handler, rider or driver

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>