



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for AHCLSK236 Handle horses safely for stock work

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package Release 11.0.

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 safely handled at least two different calm, consistent and obedient horses. The individual must have safely approached, caught, handled in a controlled manner, led and tied up each horse, including:

- identified at least three potential horse handling hazards and assessed associated risks
- controlled safety risks when handling horses, including:
 - communicated clearly with supervisor and/or others near the horse being handled
 - selected and correctly fitted personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - applied safe and low stress horse handling techniques and practices
 - fitted and correctly used horse handling gear, including prepared halter and lead, in hand prior to approaching the horse
 - identified safety zones, confirmed horse is aware of handler, avoided danger zones, untied and led horse
 - positioned self to reduce risk of harm to self and others
 - opened gates correctly for horse to be moved through safely
- led horse safely, including:
 - using handling cues to achieve the desired horse response, including 'go', 'slow', 'turn' and 'stop'
 - on its own through narrow openings and confined spaces
 - in single file with other horses and handlers
 - under control past others leading a horse
- identified hazards while handling horse, including:
 - gates
 - confined spaces
 - other handlers
 - social hierarchy of horses

- secured horse to tie-up point using safe knot
- lifted fore and hind legs and checked hooves
- removed halter and lead while assuming safe body position in relation to horse
- checked over and groomed horse safely
- reported activities and potential risks or incidents to supervisor.

Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- features of a horse, including points, colour, markings, gender
- basic characteristics of common horse behaviour, natural instincts and social traits, including:
 - social hierarchy of horses living in large groups
 - natural behaviour of horses when returning from large breaks and associated handling techniques
- how to identify horses using colour, markings, branding and sex
- features of horse body language, including:
 - posture and facial features that indicate horses are relaxed
 - posture and facial features that indicate horses are threatened or defensive
 - posture and facial features that indicate horses are distressed
- typical horse responses to people, clothing and common human body language, including:
 - aggressive
 - relaxed and approachable
 - self-confident
- typical horse responses to environmental factors, including:
 - weather
 - natural environment
 - physical environment, including infrastructure
- basic horse behaviours, including fight and flight responses, body language, herd, small group and adverse behaviours
- common hazards and risks that can occur when handling horses, including:
 - hazards to handler in large groups of horses
 - horse bites, kicks, strikes, stomping, crushing and being knocked
 - zoonoses, including Hendra and ringworm
 - weather, including extreme temperatures, wind and rain
- common controls to eliminate or minimise risks when handling horses, including:
 - current assessment of horse suitability
 - use of safe and low stress horse handling practices
 - movement within horse safety zones
 - fences and other barriers

- infection control, including personal hygiene
- pre-activity checks, including gear and equipment, horse behaviour and suitability in readiness for work tasks
- purpose, use, maintenance and storage of PPE for handling horses, including:
 - clothing and footwear
 - face and eye protection
 - hand protection
 - head protection
- common equine workplace communication procedures and protocols
- common types of injuries sustained by horses, handlers and others during handling activities
- how horses learn through pressure-release, use of cues, repetition and reward
- safe body position in relation to horses, and use of cues to start, slow down, stop and turn horse
- quick release knots and safe methods of securing horses
- leg lifting and hoof checking techniques
- purpose of stock horse hoof checks, including:
 - sand cracks
 - irregularity to quarters, including flaring
 - missing shoes
 - wall implications
 - sole and frog damage
 - removal of stones or foreign bodies in feet or shoes
- purpose and implications of body check over and coat grooming, including:
 - injuries
 - rub marks
 - bites marks
 - parasites
 - infections.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions, including livestock handling yards and paddocks
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - various live, calm, consistent and obedient horses educated for stock work and assessed as suitable for the experience and skill of the individual

- structures, tools, equipment and working gear, including tack for individual, horse and activity
- PPE applicable to handling horses safely for stock work
- specifications:
 - workplace procedures for handling horses safely for stock work
 - legislation, regulations, standards, guidelines and procedures for animal welfare applicable to handling horses safely for stock work
- relationships:
 - supervisor and other workers
- time frames:
 - according to job requirements.

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training.

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=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>