



Australian Government

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.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify, safely catch, control, handle and release calm, consistent and obedient horses educated to work livestock. It addresses the potential risks associated with working with and around horses and livestock.

The unit applies to individuals who undertake routine work under general supervision, with some accountability for their own work, identifying and providing solutions to a limited range of predictable problems.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory health and safety regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace, and animal welfare legislation, regulations, standards and guidelines, and sustainability and biosecurity practices.

In addition to legal responsibilities, all units of competency dealing with animals in the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management Training Package have the requirements for animals to be handled humanely to minimise stress and discomfort.

No licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Livestock (LSK)

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Identify horses and their typical behaviour	1.1 Distinguish and confirm horses by their colour, markings, brands and sex 1.2 Identify horse behaviour related to the natural instincts, sensory

Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	perceptions and social behaviour of horses 1.3 Identify and interpret common horse body language 1.4 Identify how horse behaviour is affected by human behaviour 1.5 Identify environmental factors that may affect horse behaviour
2. Identify and control personal risks when handling horses	2.1 Identify horse and known temperament, behaviour and level of education of horse prior to handling 2.2 Check and confirm suitability of horse against own handling ability, and required activities 2.3 Identify hazards, and assess and control and/or report risks related to handling horse 2.4 Use appropriate personal behaviour and body language when handling horse
3. Safely catch, handle, secure and release horse	3.1 Select and fit personal protective equipment (PPE) according to workplace procedures 3.2 Select and fit appropriate horse gear for handling horse safely 3.3 Locate horse and observe horse body language and behaviour before approaching 3.4 Catch, lead and tie up horse using halter, and release horse using safe and low stress handling techniques 3.5 Lead horse through narrow openings, and among other horses and handlers 3.6 Tie up horse using a halter and lead-rope 3.7 Lift fore and hind legs, and check and clean out hooves 3.8 Check over and groom horse in preparation for proposed activity 3.9 Release horse with another horse
4. Respond to immediate safety risks	4.1 Monitor horse behaviour during all handling activities, and respond to situations and hazards that arise to avoid injury to self, others and horse 4.2 Use safe and low stress handling techniques to control or minimise risks to horse and handler 4.3 Report and seek assistance from supervisor on activities, risks or incidents beyond own level of responsibility

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
Oral communication	• Use clear language and accurate industry terminology for handling horses in livestock production workplaces • Respond to questions and clarify information

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current release	Code and title previous release	Comments	Equivalence status
AHCLSK236 Handle horses safely for stock work	Not applicable	The unit has been created to address an emerging 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=c6399549-9c62-4a5e-bf1a-524b2322cf72>

Assessment Requirements for AHCLSK236 Handle horses safely for stock work

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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 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.

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