



Australian Government

RGRPSH403 Educate horses for harness racing

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with RGR Racing and Breeding Training Package Version 2.0.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to introduce a horse to the skills, gear and equipment required for harness racing, and to correct or re-educate horses with inappropriate training or racing behaviours or styles.

The unit applies to individuals who have a high standard of competence in handling horses and racing training and driving. They require a strong knowledge of horse learning theory to educate inexperienced horses and horses with schooling problems in harness racing.

All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, in accordance with applicable state/territory animal welfare and workplace health and safety legislative requirements.

Licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements apply to this unit. Users are advised to check with the relevant Principal Racing Authority for current requirements.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Performance services horse (PSH)

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. Introduce harness racing gear, equipment and routines	1.1 Assess and control risks before interacting with horses 1.2 Condition horses safely and ethically to accept general care and handling

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
	1.3 Mouth horses for harness racing according to industry practices 1.4 Condition horses to accept harness, then cart
2. Introduce driving skills	2.1 Use a controlled environment to introduce horse to basic driving tasks 2.2 Drive horse in harness 2.3 Develop horse confidence in driving tasks 2.4 Gait horse for harness racing
3. Identify driving problems and implement correction program	3.1 Evaluate horse's performance and previous history 3.2 Investigate potential physical and behavioural causes of poor performance 3.3 Develop and implement an education program in consultation with trainer 3.4 Use corrective techniques safely to modify performance and behaviour according to animal welfare principles 3.5 Review horse's racing future with trainer and owner

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
Numeracy	Estimate and calculate speed, distance and time relevant to horse pace and driving
Navigate the world of work	Follow safe, ethical and humane horse handling industry practices associated with own role
Interact with others	Work collaboratively and communicate effectively with others to plan education programs and evaluate horse performance and progression
Get the work done	- Plan and sequence strategies for horse education programs, monitoring risks and progress and adjusting activities to achieve outcomes - Analyse problems and risks, devise solutions and reflect on approaches taken

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
RGRPSH403 Educate horses for harness racing	RGRPSH403A Educate harness horses for racing	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages. Minor changes to performance criteria for clarity and additional safety and title changed to reflect intent of this unit. Prerequisite removed.	Equivalent unit

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c4b8489-f7e1-463b-81c8-6ecce6c192a0>

Assessment Requirements for RGRPSH403 Educate horses for harness racing

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Performance Evidence

An individual demonstrating competency in this unit must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria of this unit. There must be evidence that the individual has undertaken the following, with at least two standardbred horses, including for each:

- demonstrated safe and effective horse handling skills, including assessing hazards and risks associated with educating each horse
- introduced harness racing gear, equipment and routines to horse
- introduced driving skills, including:
 - developing balance and tractability of horse
 - driving horse from mobile start position
 - using strategies to control horse
 - judging and identifying pace of horse
- planned and evaluated horse education, including:
 - identified racing, training and barrier driving problems
 - selected effective techniques to correct or modify behaviour and performance of horse according to animal welfare principles
 - selected and used remedial training 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:

- characteristics of behaviour and movement of standardbred horses that could potentially affect horse performance in harness training and racing
- causes of common harness racing and training problems
- principles and practices of educating horses for harness racing, including:
 - basic horse learning theory principles for education and re-education of horses
 - indicators of poor performance
 - industry terminology related to educating horses for racing

- approved and remedial gear
- features of training plans for racing standardbred horses
- racing industry standards and expectations relevant to educating horses for harness racing:
 - communication procedures within stable and wider racing industry
 - personal protective equipment
 - racing industry animal welfare requirements
 - racing industry safety requirements, including safe operating procedures and risk assessment and control
- applicable rules of racing relevant to educating horses for harness racing.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - safe handling and work areas, such as racing stables, and training and racetracks
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - various standardbred horses assessed as suitable for the experience and skill of the individual
 - appropriate and correctly fitted racing industry-approved gear and equipment for individual, horse and activity
- specifications:
 - trainer instructions and reporting 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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