



Australian Government

RGRROP204 Assist with harness race starts

Release: 1

RGRROP204 Assist with harness race starts

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 safely and efficiently assist in harness race starts during harness trials and race meetings. It involves handling horses safely in a high-pressure environment, working closely with other race meeting staff and following directions from the starter while adhering to safe work practices.

The unit applies to individuals with experience handling horses, and who are authorised to assist with harness race and trial starts in the horse racing industry. Working environments include racing stables, paddocks, yards, racecourses and public areas.

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.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Unit Sector

Racing performance (ROP)

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. Ensure track is safe for racing	1.1 Remove litter or other hazards from track 1.2 Repair or report damaged equipment to stewards or track supervisor in line with racing procedures

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
2. Assist with race start and running procedures	2.1 Identify potential track problems or difficulties during warm-up or score-up 2.2 Select and correctly fit personal protective equipment according to safe operating procedures 2.3 Approach horses safely according to safe work operating procedures and racing industry practices 2.4 Assist clerk of course with cornering and capturing loose horses 2.5 Hold and restrain horses when requested by clerk of course, stewards, starter or driver 2.6 Respond to track incidents or emergencies in line with racing procedures
3. Debrief after race	3.1 Report outcomes of track incidents to starter and/or stewards 3.2 Contribute ideas on ways to improve effectiveness of track assistants

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	Interpret key information in track procedures and rules of racing
Writing	Record information about irregularities and issues accurately in workplace forms
Oral communication	Use clear language to report problems and respond promptly to instructions
Navigate the world of work	Recognise and follow industry and track procedures, including safety and animal welfare requirements, associated with own role
Interact with others	- Follow accepted communication practices and protocols for communicating with racing officials and drivers using accurate industry terminology - Work collaboratively in a team to achieve joint outcomes

Skill	Description
Get the work done	• Take responsibility for performing duties safely and efficiently within nominated timeframes • Assess and minimise risks relating to interactions with horses, and seek assistance to prevent problems arising or escalating

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
RGRROP204 Assist with harness race starts	RGRROP204A Assist with harness race starts	Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages.	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 RGRROP204 Assist with harness race starts

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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 assisted with at least three harness race starts, including for each:

- assessed risks associated with race start activities, including:
 - removing or reporting hazards on track
 - checking track for safety
 - reporting damaged equipment
- used safe horse handling techniques and work practices to handle, capture, hold and restrain horses
- responded to instructions and relayed information to stewards, racing personnel, and co-workers promptly and safely
- responded to track incidents or emergencies or demonstrated appropriate responses to at least three realistic scenarios.

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:

- responsibilities associated with own role, including:
 - personal grooming and presentation requirements
 - basic industry terminology related to harness racing
 - relevant rules of racing for harness starts
- racing industry animal welfare principles and requirements relevant to harness racing
- protocols and procedures for communicating with licensed and other racing industry personnel, including reporting requirements for irregularities and problems
- racing industry safety requirements, including:
 - hazard identification and risk control

- personal protective equipment
- safe operating procedures
- dealing with incidents and emergencies
- safe methods of handling and controlling horses
- awareness of horse behaviour traits, body language and other signals.

Assessment Conditions

Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:

- physical conditions:
 - a racetrack or a racetrack environment that accurately reflects performance in a real workplace setting
- resources, equipment and materials:
 - standardbred horses
 - equipment and gear to perform duties
 - racing industry-approved personal protective equipment, correctly fitted and appropriate for activity for individual
- relationships (internal and/or external):
 - starter or steward for instructions.

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance on risk assessment and matching individuals and horses 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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