



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

RGRPSH305A Develop driving skills for trackwork

Release: 1

RGRPSH305A Develop driving skills for trackwork

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to develop driving skills for trackwork using well-educated horses. It includes communicating with supervisor and co-workers, assessing hazards, protecting the welfare of people and horses, and providing post-exercise care of horses.

The term 'well-educated horse' refers to an animal that has undergone sufficient training to ensure that it behaves in a safe, tractable and manageable way when being handled and ridden.

To undertake this unit the candidate will be able to apply safe horse handling skills and workplace OHS standards. It is recommended that RGRPSH201A Handle horses be delivered in conjunction with or before this unit of competency.

It is recommended that competence be demonstrated in basic driving before attempting this unit.

This unit of competency operates in workplace environments of racing stables, paddocks, yards, racecourses and public areas.

Licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements may apply to this unit. Check with your State Principal Racing Authority for current license or registration requirements.

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit

This unit of competency supports novice drivers to develop driving skills for trackwork in less controlled conditions with a range of well-educated horses.

This unit can be contextualised for other industries while also maintaining the integrity of the unit.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Refer to Unit Descriptor

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units

RGRPSH204A

Prepare to drive jog work

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge section and the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Prepare to drive.	1. Exercise instructions are confirmed with trainer. 2. Designated exercise areas are confirmed as free from hazards and obstacles . 3. Gear selected for slow exercise is in good working condition. 4. Horse is prepared for exercise .
Drive and control horse with consideration for safety of horse, driver and other horses and drivers in the vicinity.	5. Horses are kept under control at walk and trot, and pace alone and in company. 6. Horses are driven within safe zones for driving in company. 7. Potential risks are assessed and appropriate action is taken to reduce impact.
Drive horses at nominated speeds over nominated distances.	8. Speed and distance are measured using industry recognised methods . 9. Driving etiquette is maintained when driving in company in accordance with safety of other drivers and horses. 10. Horses are worked according to trainer's instructions . 11. Post-exercise care of horses and gear is carried out according to stable procedures.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- applying aids to control speed and direction of horse at walk and trot
- applying safe handling and work practices when driving horses
- applying safe driving skills
- assessing hazards and obstacles related to horse exercise areas
- being aware of relevant road safety rules
- communicating with employer, supervisor, co-workers and public venue employees using assertive communication techniques to gather, interpret and relay information related to developing driving skills for trackwork
- completing duties in accordance with safe operating procedures and nominated time frame

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- driving horses singly and in company
- fitting horse gear and driving apparel
- following instructions
- identifying and correctly using different items of gear and assessing their condition in terms of safe use
- identifying gait at which a horse is working
- identifying and following exercise area rules and regulations
- maintaining driving etiquette
- preparing horses for exercise and providing post-exercise care to horses
- reading and interpreting workplace documentation, including relevant rules of racing
- relating to people from a range of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and with varying physical and mental abilities
- understanding and complying with safe zones when driving horses
- using numeracy skills to measure distance and time
- working safely with other stable employees.

Required knowledge

- aids to control speed and direction of a horse
- communication procedures within stable and wider racing industry
- driving etiquette
- gear and equipment
- paces of horses
- private road and track rules
- purpose of using appropriate personal protective equipment
- racing industry animal welfare requirements
- racing industry safety requirements, including safe operating procedures
- relevant rules of racing
- safe zones for driving.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

The evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit must be relevant to workplace operations and satisfy all of the requirements of the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge and the range statement of this unit and include evidence of the following:

- knowledge of the requirements, procedures and instructions that are to apply when developing driving skills for trackwork
- demonstration of driving skills for trackwork according to trainer instructions
- implementation of procedures and timely techniques to complete driving skills for trackwork safely, effectively and efficiently
- working with others to undertake and complete driving skills for trackwork that meet required outcomes.

Evidence should be collected over a period of time using a range of well-educated harness horses of different ages and sexes in racing stable and track environments.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Competency must be assessed in a racing workplace that provides access to the required resources or simulated environment approved by the relevant State Principal Harness Racing Authority. Assessment is to occur under standard and authorised work practices, safety requirements and environmental constraints. It is to comply with relevant regulatory requirements or Australian Standards requirements.

Assessment of the practical components of this unit will be by observation of relevant skills.

The following resources must be available:

- a variety of well-educated harness horses
- materials and equipment relevant to assessing candidate's ability to practise driving skills
- safe handling and controlled driving areas, such as racing stables, and training and racetracks
- work instructions and related documentation.

EVIDENCE GUIDE

Method of assessment

Assessment methods must satisfy the endorsed Assessment Guidelines of the Racing Training Package.

The suggested strategies for the assessment of this unit are:

- written and/or oral assessment of candidate's required knowledge
- observed and firsthand testimonial evidence of candidate's application of practical tasks
- simulation exercises conducted in a State Principal Harness Racing Authority approved simulated environment.

Evidence is required to be demonstrated over a period of time, therefore where performance is not directly observed any evidence should be authenticated by supervisors or other appropriate persons.

Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role is recommended.

Guidance information for assessment

Assessment methods should reflect workplace demands (e.g. literacy and numeracy demands) and the needs of particular target groups (e.g. people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, people with a language background other than English, youth and people from low socioeconomic backgrounds).

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording in the performance criteria is detailed below.

The range statement provides details of how this competency can be used in the workplaces of the racing industry to develop driving skills for trackwork. Workplaces include harness stables and racecourses, training tracks and public areas.

Exercise instructions may include:

- duration of exercise
- exercise venue
- pace, including walking and jogging

RANGE STATEMENT

Exercise areas may include:

- specific gear or equipment to be used.
- designated slow exercise areas at racecourses
- paddocks
- private roads at racecourses
- private tracks
- relevant rules of racing
- rules and regulations of exercise area.

Hazards and obstacles may include:

- broken rails, fences or gates
- creeks and waterholes
- dusty or eroded tracks
- horses
- machinery
- rabbit holes
- slippery or muddy surfaces
- stray animals, including native animals
- vehicles.

Gear selected will include:

- bits, for example:
 - snaffle
 - straight rubber
- boots, for example:
 - ankle (pastern)
 - bell boot
 - scalping
 - shin
- breastplate
- bridle
- crupper, for example:
 - standard
 - rubber dock
 - tail tie
- harness
- saddle
- standard overcheck or head check
- driver gear:
 - approved Australian Standard helmet, clothing and footwear
- sulky.

Horse is prepared for exercise
by:

- fitting bridle comfortably to horse with reins secured until ready to attach to sulky

RANGE STATEMENT

	• positioning sulky to assist with balance to reduce resistance when in motion • requesting assistance from strapper for driving or leading exercise • making final check of gear before mounting sulky • warming up.
Safe zones will include:	• distance from other horses: • when walking, maintaining two horse lengths • when trotting or jogging, maintaining four to six lengths • identifying and keeping clear of young or intractable horses • techniques for slowing or manoeuvring horses seeking to encroach on space of others • width between drivers.
Potential risks may include:	• gear breakage • loose horses • driver injury • kicks from adjacent horses.
Industry recognised methods to measure speed and distance may include:	• measuring distance by: • knowing circumference of track • measuring distance in furlongs, miles or laps • stepping out distance • using track marker poles • measuring time by: • counting aloud • estimating time in relation to distance covered • using marker poles • using stopwatch.
Driving etiquette may include:	• checking carefully to make sure way is clear before proceeding • keeping unnecessary noise to a minimum • waiting until oncoming horses have passed before proceeding • waiting for vehicles to pass before proceeding.
Trainer's instructions may	• length and type of warm up

RANGE STATEMENT

include:

- length and type of cool down
- speed, distance and direction of jog work.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit Sector	Harness racing code
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Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units

Functional Area

Functional Area	Racing performance services
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