



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

RGRPSH306A Develop basic trackwork riding skills

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to comply with trackwork rules, protocols and safety requirements and prepare riders for the specific trackwork requirements of controlling horses in slow work, in an exercise saddle, on well-educated horses with docile temperaments.

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

To undertake this unit the candidate will be able to apply safe horse handling and workplace OHS standards, and demonstrate competent flatwork riding skills.

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 trackwork riders to develop basic trackwork riding skills at slow paces with a range of well-educated horses.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Refer to Unit Descriptor

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units

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
Comply with trackwork rules, protocols and safety requirements.	1. Safety requirements, rules and regulations for rider and horse are followed. 2. Fit, wear and suitability of approved gear are checked prior to riding. 3. Track features , weather and potential hazards are evaluated for safety and reported to track supervisor if necessary.
Develop riding skills on safe, experienced horses using an exercise saddle.	4. Horse is mounted or dismounted following safe work practices. 5. Balanced position is demonstrated on a well-educated horse in an exercise saddle in an enclosed space . 6. Fitness requirements for riding trackwork are developed.
Lead a horse at the walk while mounted.	7. Mounted horse is positioned for safe transfer of lead from strapper. 8. Control of lead horse and mounted horse is demonstrated at all times. 9. Riding etiquette is maintained when riding in company in accordance with safety of other riders and horses. 10. Lead horse is transferred to strapper at completion of exercise. 11. Problems are reported and post-exercise care of horses and gear is carried out following stable procedures.
Ride slow work.	12. Slow trackwork is practised on a well-educated horse alongside an experienced rider . 13. Horses are ridden to half pace. 14. Time counting and pace estimation skills are developed. 15. Rules for riding in company on the track are followed. 16. Trainer or foreman's instructions are followed. 17. Skills needed to control horses in a range of common trackwork situations are demonstrated.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Required skills

- applying safe riding and work practices when dealing with horses
- applying trackwork riding skills
- communicating with employer, supervisor, co-workers and others using assertive communication techniques to gather and relay information related to basic trackwork riding
- completing duties in accordance with safe operating procedures and nominated time frame
- controlling mounted horse and lead horse simultaneously
- counting the time and identifying the pace at which horse is working
- evaluating risks associated with riding trackwork
- following instructions of supervisor with regard to riding horses in trackwork
- identifying and correctly using different items of approved gear
- identifying horse behaviour, social traits and vices
- interpreting and implementing trackwork instructions
- leading horse at walk while mounted
- maintaining riding etiquette
- 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.

Required knowledge

- basic industry terminology related to riding horses
- communication procedures within stable and wider racing industry
- common horse behaviour, social traits and vices
- effective working relationships and teamwork
- riding techniques
- personal protective equipment and purpose for its use
- racing industry animal welfare requirements
- racing industry safety requirements, including safe operating procedures
- range and purpose of approved gear
- relevant rules of racing
- riding etiquette.

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 riding basic trackwork
- demonstration of control of quiet thoroughbred horses in a range of common, slow trackwork riding situations
- implementation of procedures and timely techniques for the safe, effective and efficient application of basic trackwork riding skills
- working with others to undertake and complete basic trackwork riding procedures that meet required outcomes.
- Evidence should be collected over a period of time using a range of well-educated racehorses of different ages and sexes, and at different stages of preparation 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 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 thoroughbred horses
- materials and equipment relevant to assessing candidate's ability to demonstrate basic trackwork riding skills
- safe handling areas and appropriate practical riding

EVIDENCE GUIDE

	areas, such as racing stables, and training and racetracks • work instructions and related documentation.
Method of assessment	This unit may be assessed in a holistic way with other units of competency relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role, for example: • RGRCMN201A Follow OHS procedures and observe environmental work practices • RGRPSH206A Develop riding skills for flatwork • RGRPSH304A Identify factors that affect racehorse performance.
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 basic trackwork riding skills. Workplaces include thoroughbred stables and racecourses, training tracks and public areas.

Safety requirements, rules and regulations may include:

- adhering to responsibilities under OHS legislation and workplace practices
- adhering to responsibilities under national and state codes of practice; federal, state and territory legislation; and local government regulations covering animal welfare
- approved personal protective equipment, including approved Australian Standard helmets, vests, clothing and footwear
- considering variables that influence behaviour

RANGE STATEMENT

Determining fit, wear and suitability of approved gear may include:

- of horses, such as:
 - fences and equipment
 - other persons or animals
 - vehicles
 - wind and noise
- following safe operating procedures
- gear or equipment that is approved by the regulatory racing body to be worn by horses when being handled
- general requirements pertaining to safety as well as specific requirements pertaining to particular venues
- identifying and reporting unsafe work practices
- identifying emergency situations, for example:
 - gear breakage
 - horse getting loose
- registration requirements
- rider obligations under rules of racing
- track rules and regulations
- understanding individual horse behaviour.
- gear:
 - cracked leather or PVC
 - frayed reins, girths or surcingles
 - incorrectly adjusted blinkers or pacifiers
 - incorrectly adjusted bits, tongue ties or bridles
 - loose straps, girths and surcingles
 - loose boots or bandages
 - rusty or worn bits
 - slipped saddles
- horse:
 - discomfort or head shaking
 - impaired action
 - rubbed hair or skin
- personal protective equipment:
 - helmet age and condition
 - vests
 - boots
 - gloves

RANGE STATEMENT

Factors to consider with track features may include:

- rules of racing.
- corrugations or depressions
- debris on track
- grading or watering of sand, cinders or woodchips.

Factors to consider for balanced position will include:

- adjusting length of leathers
- changing hold
- correct seat at walk, trot, canter and half pace
- correct weight distribution
- holding reins
- position of feet in irons.

Fitness requirements for trackwork riders will include:

- ability to exercise horses at required pace and distance as instructed
- ability to respond to common trackwork situations
- practising gym and fitness regime if not riding horses on a daily basis
- regular use of mechanical horse, equisizer horse or other fitness aid.

Safe transfer will include:

- awareness of strapper's position between horses and moving away from horses
- controlling mounted horses
- folding excess lead in large loops
- talking to horses.

Control of lead horse and mounted horse may include:

- adhering to regulations of racecourse and private roads
- ensuring correct gear is fitted to horse being led, including:
 - bridle with reins tied off around horse's neck and double clip lead
 - if saddled, irons run up
 - if rugged, all fittings secure
 - boots and bandages secure
- encouraging horses to settle at transfer of lead before moving off
- ensuring either horse does not move in advance of the other horse at any time
- halting horses smoothly
- keeping lead horse's head turned toward rider
- leading horse from off side
- leading only one horse at a time

RANGE STATEMENT

	- length of lead - maintaining firm hold on both reins and lead - maintaining walking pace - maintaining safe zones when in company of other horses - walking through gateway, racecourse or stable entrances and exits.
<i>Riding etiquette</i> may include:	- checking carefully to make sure way is clear before proceeding - keeping unnecessary noise to a minimum - riding horses to ensure you meet oncoming horses near side to near side - waiting until oncoming horses have passed before proceeding - waiting for vehicles to pass before proceeding.
<i>Slow trackwork</i> includes:	- long, slow distance work - trotting, cantering and half pace - working horses on nominated slow tracks on nominated slow days.
<i>Factors to consider with time counting and pace estimation</i> include:	- ensuring horse does not overwork or underwork - following instructions - judging number of seconds per 200 metres or furlong - strong canter to half pace.
<i>Rules for riding in company to be taken into account</i> include:	- maintaining safe length and width space between horses - track rules: - riding past horses - riding in the bull ring - passing slower horses - entering and leaving track - entering and leaving tie-ups - working in pairs - working with more than two other horses.
<i>Common trackwork situations</i> may include:	- broken reins or defective gear - fallen horses or riders - horse whipping around - horse ducking out the gap - horse going in reverse direction

RANGE STATEMENT

- horse shying
- loose or out of control horses
- track hazards and variations in surface.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit Sector Thoroughbred racing code

Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units

Functional Area

Functional Area Racing performance services