



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

RGRROP204A Assist with harness race starts

Release: 1

RGRROP204A Assist with harness race starts

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor

This unit of competency specifies the outcomes required to safely and efficiently assist in harness race starts during harness trials and race meetings. It requires knowledge and skills associated with 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.

It is recommended that RGRPSH201A Handle horses be delivered in conjunction with or before this unit of competency.

This unit of competency operates in work 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 racing industry personnel and others authorised to assist with harness race and trial starts.

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

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
Ensure track is safe for racing.	1. Litter or other hazards are removed from track. 2. Damaged equipment is repaired and/or reported to stewards or track supervisor.
Assist with race start and running procedures.	3. Potential track problems or difficulties are identified during warm-up or score-up. 4. Horses are approached in compliance with racing safe operating procedures. 5. Clerk of course is assisted with cornering and capturing loose horses. 6. Horses are held and restrained when requested by clerk of course, stewards, starter or driver. 7. Track incidents or emergencies are responded to in line with racing procedures.
Debrief after race.	8. Reports are made to starter and/or stewards on outcomes of track incidents. 9. Contributions are made regarding ways to improve effectiveness of track assistants.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Required skills

- applying safe handling and work practices when dealing with horses
- catching, leading and handling a range of horses in a variety of environments
- communicating with stewards, racing officials, licensed and registered personnel, co-workers and others using assertive communication techniques to gather and relay information related to assisting with race starts
- completing duties in accordance with safe operating procedures and nominated time frame
- evaluating risks associated with race start activities
- identifying and correctly applying different items of approved gear
- judging situations and seeking assistance to prevent problems arising or to overcome problems before they develop further
- identifying and correctly using different items of handling gear
- identifying behaviour of horses

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- recognising damaged or defective gear
- relating to people from a range of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds and with varying physical and mental abilities
- relaying messages to others
- responding to instructions promptly and safely
- teamwork skills to ensure completion of job tasks.

Required knowledge

- appropriate methods of controlling horses
- approved gear
- basic industry terminology related to handling horses
- limits of own responsibility
- personal grooming and presentation requirements
- protocols and procedures for communicating with licensed and other racing industry personnel
- racing industry animal welfare requirements
- racing industry safety requirements, including safe operating procedures
- range of behaviour traits exhibited by horses
- relevant rules of racing
- reporting requirements for irregularities and problems.

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 assisting with harness race starts
- implementation of procedures and timely techniques for the safe, effective and efficient application of race start duties
- working with others to undertake and complete starting procedures that meet required outcomes.

Evidence should be collected over a period of time using a range of 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 harness horses
- materials and equipment relevant to assessing candidate's ability to assist with harness race starts
- safe handling areas, such as racetracks, race meetings and associated facilities
- work instructions and related documentation.

Method of assessment

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

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The suggested strategies for the assessment of this unit are:

- written and/or oral assessment of candidate's required knowledge
- observed, documented and firsthand testimonial evidence of candidate's application of practical tasks
- simulation exercises conducted in a State Principal 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.

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.

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 assist with harness race starts. Workplaces include harness stables and racecourses, training tracks and public areas.

Hazards may include:

- foreign objects
- loose or working horses
- machinery
- stray or feral animals

RANGE STATEMENT

Potential track problems may include:

- personnel working on tracks
- plastic cones, markers or witches hats.
- damaged gear or sulkies
- driver injury
- fallen driver
- horse injury
- loose horses
- mobile barrier problems, for example hydraulic problems with wings.

Safe operating procedures when approaching horses may include:

- approaching horse from near side front
- avoiding sudden movement
- assuming control of horse
- considering variables that influence behaviour of horses, such as:
 - fences and equipment
 - other persons or animals
 - vehicles
 - wind and noise
- leading horse person to person
- maintaining at least two lengths between horses being led
- speaking calmly to horse
- using personal protective equipment
- using well-maintained and safe gear.

Track incidents or emergencies may include:

- foreign objects on racetrack
- injured horses
- fallen or injured drivers
- loose horses
- mobile barrier malfunction
- people and/or stray or feral animals on racetrack
- weather conditions, for example:
 - lightening
 - thunderstorm.

Reports will be relayed to starter or steward:

- courteously and efficiently
- maintaining confidentiality and discretion
- promptly
- using correct forms of greeting
- via verbal and/or written communication, including:

RANGE STATEMENT

- describing actions
- giving and receiving clear, accurate and simple messages
- listening to and interpreting information and instructions
- written reports, including simple documents and notes.

Unit Sector(s)

Unit Sector Harness racing code

Co-requisite units

Co-requisite units

Functional Area

Functional Area Racing performance services