



Australian Government

SISOEQU002 Ride horses using fundamental skills

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to ride horses at walk, trot and canter to a fundamental skill level.

Horses are only ridden in fenced arenas. During all activities, riders are under the direct instruction of qualified instructors who are proficient riders.

This unit applies to individuals who are new and or inexperienced horse riders and who are developing their initial riding skills. They would progressively develop additional riding skills required for work, recreational or competitive activities after achieving the foundation competency described by this unit.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

SISOEQU001 Handle horses

Competency Field

Equine

Unit Sector

Outdoor Recreation

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Elements describe the essential outcomes	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Prepare for safe riding activities.	1.1. Assess, with instructor, horse behaviour and suitability for riding activity and own skill level. 1.2. Assess, with instructor, level of horse education and suitability for riding activity and own skill level. 1.3. Discuss and identify, with instructor, potential hazards and associated risks for riding environment, weather, horse and

- riding activity.
- 1.4. Confirm activity safety and emergency response procedures to ensure compliance during horse handling and riding activities.
2. Select and prepare tack, horse and personal equipment.
- 2.1. Check condition of assigned horse, report any signs of illness or injury, select grooming equipment and groom before fitting tack.
- 2.2. Select tack and personal equipment to match riding conditions, and check it is in safe working condition.
- 2.3. Fit and adjust tack and personal equipment to self and horse to ensure comfort and safety.
- 2.4. Present horse and self to instructor for check prior to mounting.
3. Mount and ride horses.
- 3.1. Follow all instructions and safety directions to control horse throughout riding activities.
- 3.2. Mount horse safely and to ensure balance; check and adjust equipment as required.
- 3.3. Interpret behavioural signals, use positive body language and aids to direct, communicate with and control horse.
- 3.4. Use upright seat to walk, trot and canter horse calmly and maintain rider balance throughout.
- 3.5. Control horse line of direction and speed at halt, walk, trot and canter.
- 3.6. Ride horse under control in a group and alone, through a range of movements.
- 3.7. Control horse line of direction and speed to safely approach and avoid hazards.
- 3.8. Maintain safe zones and communication protocols during group riding activities.
4. Dismount, cool down and release horse.
- 4.1. Dismount horse safely to ensure balance, lead horse, ensuring safety of horse and self.
- 4.2. Remove equipment from horse according to organisational safety procedures.
- 4.3. Cool horse down as necessary.
- 4.4. Release horse to enclosure according to organisational safety procedures.
- 4.5. Check equipment for wear or breakage, and report any faults.

5. Evaluate riding techniques.

5.1. Evaluate riding skills after each ride and discuss techniques and adherence to safety requirements with instructor.

5.2. Identify improvements for future activities.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
Reading skills to:	interpret detailed and familiar organisational safety and emergency response procedures.
Oral communication skills to:	- ask open and closed probe questions and actively listen to clarify and confirm riding conditions, instructions, directions and feedback - clearly interact verbally and non-verbally with other riders to maintain a positive and safe riding environment.
Learning skills to:	modify and use new techniques according to riding conditions and horse behaviour.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guide -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>

Assessment Requirements for SISOEQU002 Ride horses using fundamental skills

Modification History

Not applicable.

Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- complete three rides under direct instruction in an arena on three different calm, consistent and obedient horses
- ride within a group of minimum two and maximum eight riders during each ride
- across the three rides, cumulatively use the following fundamental handling and riding skills:
 - saddling and adjusting tack; unsaddling
 - bridling and adjusting tack; unbridling
 - mounting and dismounting with assistance
 - holding, lengthening and shortening the reins
 - maintaining gaps between horses during group rides
 - using a balanced, independent upright seat position
 - starting and stopping
 - techniques to stop horse in an emergency
 - walking horses including:
 - maintaining balance and control
 - halt-walk transitions and walk-halt transitions
 - turning and guiding the horse at the walk
 - trotting horses including:
 - maintaining balance and control
 - rising trot
 - turning and guiding the horse at the trot
 - walk-trot and trot-walk transitions
 - cantering horses including:
 - maintaining balance and control
 - turning and guiding the horse at the canter
 - cantering on correct lead
 - trot-canter and canter-trot transitions
 - providing direction to the horse using the following aids:
 - legs
 - reins

- seat
- riding movements:
 - straight lines
 - diagonal lines
 - circles
- riding towards and away from the group
- cooling down horses
- during each ride, consistently:
 - use safe horse handling and riding practices and techniques to effectively control the horse
 - follow instructions and safety directions.

Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- organisational safety and emergency response procedures for riding activities
- factors that affect the matching of horses to riders at a fundamental level of understanding to include:
 - rider's age, size, weight, physical capabilities and skill level
 - horse age, size, behaviour and level of education
- a range of potential hazards connected to the arena environment, weather and horse, and commonly used control measures
- communication protocols for group rides
- the meaning of safe zone for riding in a group and techniques used to maintain gaps between horses
- common behaviour patterns of horses during group rides
- basic indicators of horse illness and injury
- reasons for grooming horses prior to fitting tack and risks associated with not grooming
- safe grooming techniques, purpose, features and use of grooming equipment used before fitting tack
- purpose, features of, and techniques used to fit and adjust tack to ensure correct fit, comfort for horse and safety of rider to include:
 - saddles
 - saddles cloths
 - bridles
 - reins
 - bits
 - stirrups with safety features
- safe techniques used to unsaddle and unbridle horses
- purpose and features of personal protective equipment for riders to include:
 - clothing

- footwear
- helmets
- fundamental horse riding techniques used to control horses safely and effectively to include those for:
 - mounting and dismounting with assistance
 - holding, lengthening and shortening the reins
 - maintaining gaps between horses during group rides
 - using a balanced, independent upright seat position
 - starting and stopping
 - techniques to stop horse in an emergency
 - walking horses including:
 - maintaining balance and control
 - halt-walk transitions and walk-halt transitions
 - turning and guiding the horse at the walk
 - trotting horses including:
 - maintaining balance and control
 - rising trot
 - turning and guiding the horse at the trot
 - walk-trot and trot-walk transitions
 - cantering horses including:
 - maintaining balance and control
 - turning and guiding the horse at the canter
 - cantering on correct lead
 - trot-canter and canter-trot transitions
 - providing direction to the horse using the following aids:
 - legs
 - reins
 - seat
 - riding movements:
 - straight lines
 - diagonal lines
 - circles
 - riding towards and away from the group
 - cooling down horses.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated within a fenced horse riding arena with a safe surface for the horse riding exercises.

Horse matching prior to all assessments involving horse interaction is essential. Assessors must:

- complete, participate in or validate a risk assessment of both the candidate's and other participant riders' characteristics and level of horse handling and riding skills
- match, or validate the matching of, horses of suitable history, size and temperament to both the candidate and other participants to ensure that rider and horse combination is safe.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- a group of minimum two and maximum eight riders, including the candidate
- calm, consistent and obedient horses, matched to all riders as above, and educated for recreational purposes and inexperienced riders
- mounting blocks or ramps
- grooming equipment to include:
 - dandy and body brushes
 - plastic or rubber curry combs
 - mane or tail brush
 - hoof picks
- tack to include:
 - saddles
 - saddle cloths
 - bridles
 - reins
 - bits
 - stirrups with safety features
- personal protective equipment to include:
 - riding boots
 - Australian Standard, or equivalent, compliant helmets
- organisational safety and emergency response procedures for riding activities.

Assessment must ensure access to:

- human and equine first aid equipment
- communication equipment for emergency response.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- hold a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes this unit of competency, SISOEQU002 Ride horses using fundamental skills, or a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes a unit of competency that has been superseded by this unit, and

- hold a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes the unit SISOEQU008 Instruct fundamental horse riding skills, or a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes a unit of competency that has been superseded by that unit, and
- have at least three years' experience in a role involving equestrian, outdoor recreational or instructional riding where they have applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency, and
- hold accreditation relevant to assessing riding skills covered by this unit; accreditation refers to:
 - accreditation offered by equine sporting organisations recognised by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), or
 - certification offered by equine organisations which are Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) or whose training is managed by an affiliated RTO.

Links

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