



Australian Government

SISOEQU007 Instruct horse handling skills

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to teach handlers and riders to safely handle horses, particularly those used in equestrian sport or recreational riding programs but it could have wider application to other equine settings.

It requires the ability to plan, organise and deliver individual training sessions within an overall learning program designed to progressively develop participants' horse handling skills.

This unit applies to instructors and coaches who work for a range of organisations including those involved in equestrian sport, instructional, recreational riding and other programs.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

SISOEQU001 Handle horses

SISOEQU010 Identify hazards, assess and control safety risks for horse handling and riding activities

Competency Field

Equine

Unit Sector

Outdoor Recreation

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Plan instructional sessions.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1.1. Determine objectives of individual sessions to allow progression of skills within overall learning program.

1.2. Identify and evaluate participant needs, characteristics and current horse handling skills.

- 1.3. Develop session plans to include appropriate activities for learner requirements and stage of skills acquisition.
 - 1.4. Identify suitable environment, horses and equipment for handling session.
 - 1.5. Complete session specific risk assessment and determine safety, emergency response and first aid procedures.
2. Prepare for session.
 - 2.1. Set up area for activities and complete safety checks on environment.
 - 2.2. Select horses of suitable history, size and temperament to match participant capabilities.
 - 2.3. Select gear and equipment to match handling activities, and check it is in safe working condition.
 - 2.4. Confirm participants have clothing and footwear appropriate for handling session
3. Brief participants.
 - 3.1. Communicate instructions and information about session in a manner appropriate to participants.
 - 3.2. Encourage participants to ask questions and seek advice before and during session.
 - 3.3. Inform participants of known and anticipated risks, safety procedures, safe behaviour, safe areas and boundaries.
 - 3.4. Advise participants of communication protocols to use during activities.
4. Instruct horse handling sessions.
 - 4.1. Implement teaching and coaching techniques to impart skills and knowledge for handling techniques.
 - 4.2. Provide clear and accurate exercise instructions and horse handling demonstrations throughout the session.
 - 4.3. Facilitate effective group communication and interaction to maintain group control, engagement and safety.
 - 4.4. Observe and monitor participant performance of handling techniques and provide corrective instruction.
 - 4.5. Monitor participant adherence to safety procedures and assertively correct breaches.
 - 4.6. Monitor horse behaviour and interaction and promptly control aggressive, misbehaved and frightened horses.
 - 4.7. Supervise safe departure of participants from horse enclosure.
5. Evaluate the session.
 - 5.1. Debrief and encourage participants to identify personal skill progression and satisfaction with session.

5.2. Provide feedback on techniques and adherence to safety requirements.

5.3. Self-evaluate session against learning objectives and identify areas for future improvement.

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 familiar organisational safety, emergency response and first aid procedures.
Writing skills to:	- prepare detailed session plans incorporating correct terminology and jargon for the activities - use fundamental sentence structure to complete safety checklists that require factual information.
Oral communication skills to:	- provide clear and unambiguous instructions to learners using language and terms easily understood by novice handlers - ask open and closed probe questions and actively listen to determine learners' understanding of handling techniques.
Planning and organising skills to:	manage own timing and that of participants to complete instructional sessions within organisational service times.

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 SISOEQU007 Instruct horse handling 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:

- develop three session plans for three different horse handling instructional sessions
- deliver three instructional sessions according to the session plans developed:
 - deliver one session to a single learner handler
 - deliver two sessions to a group of minimum three and maximum six learners
- across the three instructional sessions, cumulatively incorporate activities to develop the following horse handling skills for learners:
 - approaching horses with halters and leads
 - catching horses alone and in groups, and fitting halters and leads
 - using cues to start, stop and turn horses
 - leading horses through confined spaces
 - leading horses alone and in groups
 - holding horses in position when lined up in groups
 - tying up and untying horses
 - releasing horses alone and in groups
- during all instructional activities:
 - consistently control participant adherence to safety procedures
 - consistently monitor and control horse behaviour.

Knowledge Evidence

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

- organisational safety, emergency response and first aid procedures for horse handling instructional sessions
- requirements of overall learning program and how sessions are sequenced to progressively develop handling skills
- format and contents of session plans
- how characteristics of participants affect the choice of sessional activities:
 - age
 - current horse handling experience and skill level

- skill development needs
- fitness level and physical capabilities
- injuries and medical conditions
- suitable environments for delivery of horse handling activities
- factors that affect the selection of equipment to suit handlers and activities
- clothing and footwear requirements for horse handlers
- communication protocols used between participants, instructors and horses during instructional sessions
- teaching and coaching techniques applicable to horse handling and a range of ages and learning abilities
- techniques used to provide constructive feedback to learners
- a range of instructional activities used to develop the following horse handling skills:
 - approaching horses with halters and leads
 - catching horses alone and in groups, and fitting halters and leads
 - using cues to start, stop and turn horses
 - leading horses through confined spaces
 - leading horses alone and in groups
 - holding horses in position when lined up in groups
 - tying up and untying horses
 - releasing horses alone and in groups
- common behavioural problems of horses when being handled
- techniques used to control adverse horse behaviour while maintaining welfare of the horse and safety of handler.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in contained horse handling environments which must include:

- small fenced enclosures
- large fenced enclosures
- areas containing doorways and gates.

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 participant learners' characteristics and level of horse handling skills
- match, or validate the matching of, horses of suitable history, size and temperament to both the candidate and participant learners to ensure that handler and horse combination is safe.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- learners whom the candidate instructs; for group sessions, a minimum three and maximum six learners
- horses, matched to all handlers as above; these must be:
 - calm, consistent and obedient horses for the first and second instructional sessions delivered by the candidate
 - compliant and manageable horses for the third instructional session delivered by the candidate
- equipment used to handle horses:
 - halters
 - leads
 - tie-up points
- template:
 - session plans
 - safety checklists
- participant profiles to include:
 - age and size
 - current horse handling experience and skill level
 - skill development needs
 - fitness level and physical capabilities
 - injuries and medical conditions
- organisational safety, emergency response and first aid procedures for horse handling instructional sessions

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, SISOEQU007 Instruct horse handling skills, or a qualification or Statement of Attainment which includes a unit of competency that has been superseded by this unit, and
- have at least three years' experience as a horse handling instructor where they have applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency, and
- hold accreditation relevant to assessing instructional 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.

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