Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with RGR Racing Training Package Version 1.0. |

| RGRROP406 | Perform duties of harness race starter |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to safely and efficiently conduct race starts including, preparing for race starts, working closely with other race meeting staff, reporting to stewards and race club personnel and completing post-race activities.  The unit applies to individuals who act as starters for race meetings as part of their job function in the harness racing industry.  No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.  Work health and safety and animal welfare legislation relevant to interacting with horses applies to workers in this industry. Requirements vary in each state/territory jurisdiction. Users are advised to check with the relevant authority for specific requirements.  NOTE: The terms 'occupational health and safety' (OHS) and 'work health and safety' (WHS) generally have the same meaning in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the national model WHS legislation has not been implemented, RTOs must contextualise the unit of competency by referring to current OHS legislative requirements. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Racing Performance (ROP) |

| Elements | Performance Criteria |
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| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1. Prepare for race starts | 1.1 Confirm race fields, distances and start types  1.2 Note past problems with particular horses during race starts  1.3 Confirm operation of mobile and other start equipment prior to commencement of race meeting  1.4 Organise contingency plan in case of malfunction in start equipment  1.5 Interpret and comply with rules of racing relating to starting a race  1.6 Identify hazards and assess and control risks associated with the start of a race to minimise risk of injury according to WHS and safe operating procedures  1.7 Relay race meeting protocols and instructions to mobile driver and other staff |
| 2. Start harness race using mobile barrier or standing start conditions | 2.1 Verify starters and note colours and approved gear  2.2 Send horses to warm up  2.3 Confirm race start time with stewards  2.4 Call horses to score-up under clerk of course supervision  2.5 Request drivers to assume start positions within time and safety constraints  2.6 Manage incidents to minimise the risk of injury to staff and horses and report to stewards and/or veterinarian  2.7 Declare non-starters after conferring with stewards  2.8 Confirm permission to start race with stewards  2.9 Initiate race start and operate gates once horse position is stable or when mobile barrier is at appropriate place on track |
| 3. Complete post-race activities. | 3.1 Provide score-up and start reports to stewards  3.2 Update notes on problems with starters for personal records  3.3 Check barrier or start equipment for damage and/or maintenance requirements prior to shutting down  3.4 Report repairs or maintenance requirements to race club |

| Foundation Skills  This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria. | |
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| Skill | Description |
| Reading | * Interpret racing documents relating to race distances, race fields, track conditions, horse identification and performance records |
| Writing | * Prepare reports accurately and legibly according to steward or racing club requirements |
| Oral communication | * Use clear language, accurate information and appropriate tone for audience when giving instructions or reporting information to others |
| Navigate the world of work | * Take responsibility for complying with applicable rules of racing and WHS and animal welfare requirements in carrying out role |
| Interact with others | * Follow communication protocols and practices for reporting and responding promptly to issues with racing officials and other personnel including the use of discretion and confidentiality |
| Get the work done | * Make effective decisions and resolve problems within the bounds of the duties and responsibilities of a race meeting starter |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| RGRROP406 Perform duties of harness race starter | RGRROP406A Perform duties of harness race starter | Updated to meet Standards for Training Packages | Equivalent unit |

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| Links | Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet:  https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c4b8489-f7e1-463b-81c8-6ecce6c192a0 |

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for RGRROP406 Perform duties of harness race starter |
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| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual performed duties of a harness race starter at a minimum of three race meetings or trials, including for each:   * conducted pre-race preparations including identifing risks associated with race meeting start * followed process to start harness race using mobile barrier or standing start conditions * completed post-race activites * communicated with and reported to stewards. | |

| Knowledge Evidence |
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| An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:   * race meeting and race start requirements, including: * relevant rules of racing for harness race starts * race fields, distances and start types * approved gear for harness racing and features of damaged or defective gear * operation of mobile and other start equipment and procedures for operation and maintenance * race meeting communication procedures, including: * protocols for communicating with stewards, race officals, drivers and others * reporting requirements for irregularities and problems * working with race horses: * range of behaviour traits and body language exhibited by horses relevant to harness race starts * methods for identifying individual horses * common features of injury, illness and distress in horses * racing industry animal welfare requirements * racing industry safety requirements, including: * identification and assessment of hazards and risks * control measures to minimise injury to staff, drivers and horses * safe horse handling and controlling techniques * organisational safe operating procedures * work health and safety (WHS) legislative requirements relating to interacting with horses. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * safe handling and approved race starting and associated facilities * resources, equipment and materials: * various standardbred horses at harness race facilities * mobile or other start equipment for race meeting * personal protective equipment correctly fitted and appropriate for activity for candidate * relationships (internal/external): * access to drivers, stewards and other staff.   Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training.  Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. |

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