

Modification history

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 1.0.

ACMEQU202	Handle horses safely
Application	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify, safely catch, control and handle calm, consistent and obedient horses educated for the relevant activity. It covers knowledge of potential risks working with and around horses and following industry guidelines and procedures to ensure the welfare and safety of the individual, other workers and the horse.</p> <p>This unit applies to workers in industries involving horses, who undertake routine work which may be under supervision. They handle horse in work environments that may include stables, paddocks, yards, tracks, exercise arenas and public areas.</p> <p>Commonwealth and state/territory health and safety, and animal welfare legislation, regulations and codes of practice relevant to interacting with horses apply to workers in this industry. Requirements vary between industry sectors and jurisdictions.</p> <p>No licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication, except for the racing industry, where requirements vary between states and territories. Users working in the racing industry are advised to contact the relevant Principal Racing Authority for advice on current requirements.</p>
Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	Equine (EQU)

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Identify features of horses (Note - PCs 1.3 and 1.4 have been copied from ACMEQU101 Approach and catch horses for possible inclusion here)	1.1 Distinguish horses by their features, and describe using industry terminology 1.2 Identify common horse body language, behaviour and social traits 1.3 Identify the features of human body language that affect horse behaviour 1.4 Describe horse behaviour and their responses to people, other horses and the environment using industry terminology

Commented [TV1]: Safety SMEs on 1 Dec 2020 advised to revise this unit and make it more robust so that it can be used across a range of job levels and sectors. Unit is to be used in both Cert II and Cert III quals

Based on their advice:

- Application statement has been modified
- prerequisite unit removed
- 'under supervision' to be removed from the Elements and PCs
- horse body language and behaviour to be strengthened
- control of horses in different situations to be added
- responding to immediate hazards and risks to be added

Advice is sought if loading and unloading horses for transport should be part of this unit

Commented [TV2]: SISOEQ0001 Handle horses has - 1.1. Identify known temperament, behaviour and level of education of horse prior to handling. 1.2. Identify current environmental factors that may affect horse senses and behaviour.

Are these outcome worth including in this unit?

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
2. Safely approach, catch, control and lead horses (Note - there is some overlap in the element with PCs 2.2 - 2.4 of ACMEQU201 - this needs to be considered when this unit is revised)	2.1 Confirm supervisor instructions for tasks requiring involving approaching, catching and leading horse 2.2 Select and correctly fit personal protective equipment (PPE) 2.3 Identify horse according to instructions and observe horse body language and behaviour before approaching 2.4 Identify and report to supervisor potential safety risks prior to approaching horse 2.5 Identify, select and prepare appropriate gear for handling horses safely 2.6 Prepare halter and lead in hand prior to approaching the horse 2.7 Approach calmly and catch horse using safe handling techniques under supervision 2.8 Apply safe control when leading and tying up horse and use safe handling practices around tied-up horses 2.9 Use safe handling procedures around other handlers and horses
3. Load and unload horses under supervision (Some feedback has been received to remove this element, and others argue it should stay as it required of stable hands)	3.1 Confirm supervisor instructions for tasks requiring the loading and unloading of horses 3.2 Identify potential safety risks to handler and horse when loading and unloading horses, and discuss with supervisor 3.3 Select and correctly fit PPE for safe loading and/or unloading of horses 3.4 Select gear and equipment for loading horse and check gear for safety 3.5 Fit gear to horse correctly prior to loading under supervision 3.6 Load horses safely according to workplace procedures 3.7 Position horse according to transport configuration 3.8 Unload horse safely according to workplace procedures
4. Control horses in exercise environments	4.1 Confirm supervisor instructions for tasks requiring the handling of horses in public areas 4.2 Identify potential safety risks to handler and horse when handling horses in public areas, and discuss with supervisor 4.3 Select and correctly fit PPE for safe handling of horses 4.4 Select gear and equipment, including safety check of gear 4.5 Observe and identify horse body language and behaviour prior to handling in exercise environments 4.6 Use safe control when leading and standing with a horse in a public area under supervision 4.7 Use safe control when leading and standing with a horse confined in a stable or yard Add a PC to release horses here
5. Release horses (This element and PCs are copied from SISOEQ001 Handle horses - SMEs advised on 1 Dec to incorporate some of the PCs on parts of this unit)	4.1. Remove halter and lead, assuming safe body position in relation to horse. 4.2. Release horse into enclosure for a single horse; confirm security of enclosure before and after release. 4.3. Release horse into enclosure housing groups of horses; confirm security of enclosure before and after release. 4.4. Release horse as part of a group of handlers releasing horses; confirm security of enclosure before and after release
6. Respond to immediate safety risks. (This element and PCs are copied from SISOEQ001 Handle horses - SMEs advised on 1 Dec to incorporate this element in this unit)	5.1. Monitor horse behaviour during all handling activities and respond to adverse behaviour. 5.2. Complete on-the-spot risk assessment as hazards arise during activities to avoid injury to self, others and horse. 5.3. Use techniques to calm and control horse throughout activities and amend or cease activities as required.

Commented [TV3]: SMEs advised to add the following to this element - leading a horse on its own through doorways, gates, leading a horse in single file past a group, leading a horse through a group of horses.

Commented [TV4]: Suggest combining PCs 3.6 & 3.7

Commented [TV5]: SMEs advised to remove this element and some PCs about leading horses and a PC about restraining a horse to lift its legs
Add PCs where to position yourself when handling a horse or when assisting others to handle horses.

Commented [TV6]: Why is public area in this unit and what does this mean?

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.

Skill	Description
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use active listening and questioning techniques to clarify and confirm supervisor instructions Use industry terminology to describe horses, gear and equipment used for handling horses

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely			

Links

Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet:
<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103>

TITLE	Assessment requirements for ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely
Performance Evidence	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency in this unit must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria of this unit.</p> <p>There must be evidence that the individual has safely handled at least three different calm, consistent and obedient horses educated for the activity being performed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carrying out a basic risk assessment prior to each activity, including observing and identifying horse body language • communicating clearly with supervisor, including raising safety risks or concerns • approaching, catching, controlling, leading, standing and tying up horses safely in at least one public catching and controlling a horse in a group • space and one confined space, under supervision, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • following work health and safety (WHS) procedures in the context of own work • applying safe horse handling techniques according to animal welfare requirements • fitting and correctly using horse handling gear and personal protective equipment (PPE) • loading and unloading horses to a horse transport vehicle under supervision in a calm and humane manner. • controlling a horse when working with other handlers and other handlers leading horses? 	
Knowledge Evidence	
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • common features of a horse, including points, colour, markings, gender, and common breeds • basic characteristics of common horse behaviour and social traits • features of horse body language • communication protocols with supervisor, and procedures within the work environment • potential hazards and risks when dealing with horses in open and confined spaces • common types of injuries sustained by horses, handlers and others during handling activities • safe horse handling zones • purpose and use of PPE and gear for handling horses • features of defective equipment and the implications to safety • quick release knots and methods of securing horses • types of horse transport and common loading configurations • difficult situations that may occur when loading and unloading horses and procedures for dealing with difficulties. 	
Assessment Conditions	
<p>Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an equine workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions, including open and confined spaces in suitable environments • resources, equipment and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • various calm, consistent and obedient horses educated for the activity and assessed as suitable for the experience and skill of the individual • appropriate tack for individual, horse and activity • horse transport vehicle • PPE that is appropriate for activity and correctly fitted for individual • other people and horses in the vicinity of the assessment activity • specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work instructions • relationships with others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supervisor. 	

Commented [TV7]: The unit application states the workplace may include - stables, paddocks, yards, tracks, exercise arenas and public areas. Should some of these others be specified as well?

Commented [TV8]: Is this necessary?

Commented [TV9]: Refer to comments above in Element 3

Assessment Conditions

Training and assessment strategies must show evidence of the use of guidance provided in the <i>Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training</i> .

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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