Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 5.0. |

| ACMEQU2X12 | Handle horses safely |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to identify, safely catch, control handle and release calm, consistent and obedient horses educated for the relevant activity. It covers knowledge of potential risks when handling horses to support the welfare and safety of the individual, other workers and the horse.  This unit applies to workers in industries involving horses, who undertake routine work under supervision and apply knowledge and judgement to solve predictable issues when handling horses. Work environments may include stables, paddocks, yards, tracks, work arenas and other exercise areas.  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.  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. |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Equine (EQU) |

| 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. Identify horses and their typical behaviour | 1.1 Distinguish horses by their features, and describe using industry terminology  1.2 Identify normal and abnormal horse behaviour related to the natural instincts, sensory perceptions and social behaviour of horses  1.3 Identify and interpret common horse body language  1.4 Identify how horse behaviour is affected by human behaviour  1.5 Identify environmental factors that may affect horse behaviour |
| 2. Identify and control personal risks when handling horses | 2.1 Identify horse and known temperament, behaviour and level of education of horse prior to handling.  2.2 Assess suitability of horse for handler and required tasks  2.3 Identify hazards, assess and control and/or report risks related to handling the horse  2.4 Use appropriate personal behaviour and horse handling techniques to safely handle horse |
| 3. Safely catch, lead, secure and release horse | 3.1 Select and fit personal protective equipment (PPE) according to workplace procedures  3.2 Identify horse and observe horse body language and behaviour before approaching  3.3 Identify, select and fit appropriate gear for handling horses safely  3.4 Catch, lead, tie up and release horse using safe and low stress handling techniques  3.5 Lead horse through gateways, doorways, other horses and amongst other people  3.6 Catch, lead and release a horse within a group of horses  3.7 Fit horse restraints to secure and control horse  3.8 Lift fore and hind limbs and check horse's hooves |
| 4. Load and unload horse under supervision | 4.1 Identify the horse and transport vehicle  4.2 Identify the hazards, assess and control risks related to handling the horse  4.3 Select and correctly fit PPE for safe loading and/or unloading of horses  4.4 Select gear and equipment for loading horse and check gear for safety  4.5 Fit gear to horse correctly prior to loading under supervision  4.6 Load horse safely according to workplace procedures  4.7 Unload horse safely according to workplace procedures |
| 5. Respond to immediate safety risks | 5.1 Monitor horse behaviour during all handling activities and respond to adverse behaviour  5.2 Apply dynamic risk assessment as hazards arise during activities to avoid injury to self, others and horse.  5.3 Use safe and low stress handling techniques to minimise risks to horse and handler  5.4 Report and seek assistance from supervisor on incidents and/or risks beyond level of own responsibility |

| 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 |
| Numeracy | * Estimate and measure distance, area, weight, temperature and time |
| Oral communication | * 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 |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMEQU2X12 Handle horses safely | ACMEQU202 Handle horses safely | Unit redesigned to include greater knowledge and application of horse behaviour, and skills related to handle horses safely in for a broader range tasks and contexts.  Application updated  Prerequisite removed  Three new Performance Criteria added to Element 1  New Elements 2 and 6 added  Previous Element 4 merged with other elements  Foundation skills updated  Performance Evidence, Knowledge Evidence and Assessment Conditions redesigned to reflect redesigned unit outcomes | Not equivalent |

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| 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 ACMEQU2X12 Handle horses safely |
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| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency in this unit must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria of this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has safely handled at least three different calm, consistent and obedient horses. The individual must have safely approached, caught, controlled, led and restrained each horse, including:   * identified hazards, assessed and controlled and/or reported the risks to the supervisor * communicated clearly with supervisor and other workers in proximity to the horse being handled * applied safe and low stress horse handling techniques and practices * fitted and correctly used horse handling gear and personal protective equipment (PPE) * prepared halter and lead in hand prior to approaching the horse * identified safety zones, confirmed horse is aware of handler, avoided danger zones, untied and lead horse * led horse on its own through doorways and gates * led horse in single file with other horses and handlers * led horse through a group of horses * led horse under control past others leading a horse * secured horse to tie up point * led horse into and remove from a confined space * safely and effectively applied a nose twitch and a skin twitch * fitted an anti-rearing bit or bridle with bit * checked and cleaned fore and hind hooves * controlling and standing a horse up when working with other handlers * controlled a horse while other workers are applying an oral or topical treatment * loaded and unloaded the horse into a horse transport vehicle under supervision * positioned horse in transport vehicle according to transport configuration * removed halter and lead while assuming safe body position in relation to horse * following health and safety procedures in the context of own work * repeated horse handling cues to achieve the desired horse response including ‘go’, ‘slow’, ‘turn’ and ‘stop’ * verbally reported one incident to supervisor. | |

| 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:   * common features of a horse, including height, points, colour, markings, gender, and common breeds * basic characteristics of common horse behaviour, natural instincts and social traits * features of horse body language, including: * posture and facial features that indicate horses are relaxed in their surroundings * posture and facial features that indicate horses are threatened or defensive in their surroundings * posture and facial features that indicate horses are distressed, or exhibiting uncharacteristic behaviour * common human body language that affect horse behaviour * typical horse responses to people, other horses and environmental factors * basic horse behaviours including fight and flight responses, body language, herd and adverse behaviours * common hazards and/or risks that occur when handling horses, including: * horse bites, kicks, strikes, stomping, crushing and being knocked * zoonoses, including Hendra, ringworm, and tetanus * manual handling tasks * weather, including wind and rain * common controls to eliminate or minimise risks when handling horses, including: * current assessment of horse suitability * use of safe and low stress horse handling practices * movement within horse safety zones * horse restraints including horse gear, twitch and crush * fences and other barriers * personal protective equipment * personal immunisation and hygiene * pre-activity checks, including gear and equipment, horse behaviour and suitability in readiness for work tasks * purpose, use, maintenance and storage of PPE for handling horses, including: * clothing and footwear * face and eye protection * hand protection * head protection * common equine workplace written and verbal communication procedures and protocols * common safety and traffic control signs found in an equine workplace * infection control measures including personal hygiene and hand washing * common types of injuries sustained by horses, handlers and others during handling activities * how horses learn through cues, pressure-release and repetition and reward * safe body position in relation to horses and use of cues to start, slow down, stop and turn horse * 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 * common problems that may occur when loading and unloading horses and typical solutions * features and purpose of common horse restraints, including: * nose twitch and skin twitch * hobbles * crush * bits and bridles. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * an equine workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * live horses specified in the performance evidence assessed as suitable for the assessment of this unit and the individual being assessed * structures, tools and equipment required for the tasks specified in the performance evidence, including correctly fitting gear for the horses and correctly fitting PPE for the handler * horse transport vehicle * other horse hander and horses required for the tasks specified in the performance evidence * specifications: * workplace procedures for handling horses * relationships: * supervisor.   The Companion Volume: User Guide: Safety in Equine Training provides advice and sample templates to assist assessors with the risk assessments that should be undertaken to help ensure the safety of all involved in the assessment.  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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