Modification history

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

| ACMNEW4X2 | Provide saddle fitting and adjustment services |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to select and fit saddlery equipment for individual horses and riders for range of horse sport disciplines or work activities. It can apply to other domestic equines requiring saddlery equipment.  The unit applies to individuals who assess requirements and provide saddle fitting services for clients. They work autonomously, use judgment in the selection and use of equipment and provide and communicate solutions for predictable and unpredictable problems.  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. |
| 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. Maintain currency of knowledge of saddlery equipment design | 1.1 Identify design features and components of saddles used for a range of horse sport disciplines, work activities and levels of rider experience  1.2 Evaluate construction techniques, materials and durability of saddlery equipment  1.3 Assess safety features and issues associated with saddlery equipment  1.4 Demonstrate techniques for assembling, cleaning and maintaining saddles  1.5 Review current science and research about improving saddle design for horse and rider comfort and safety |
| 2. Evaluate saddlery requirements | 2.1 Identify client saddlery requirements, confirming intended horse use, level of work/exercise, age and other relevant characteristics  2.2 Request information on concerns or problems related to saddle fit and horse behaviour2.3 Clarify financial arrangements with client relating to saddle and service costs  2.4 Observe horse and assess conformation, movement, and fitness level relevant to selection of saddlery equipment  2.5 Assess physical characteristics and experience of rider and relate to selection of saddlery equipment |
| 3. Assess horse for saddlery fit | 3.1 Assess and control risks associated with interacting with horses in close proximity  3.2 Approach and interact with horse using safe, low stress handling techniques  3.3 Examine horse for signs of pain, discomfort or inappropriate fit of existing saddle  3.4 Examine individual horse musculoskeletal features taking relevant measurements, and making a template if required  3.5 Determine saddle tree angle and width to suit horse ensuring channel clearance of spine and withers  3.6 Determine saddle length to suit thoracic region avoiding the lumbar region and involuntary muscle and nerve reflex points  3.7 Determine panel requirements appropriate for horse and intended rider and use  3.8 Select potential saddle/s suitable for individual horse, intended activity and client requirement, to be trialled |
| 4. Fit saddlery equipment | 4.1 Position and check placement of saddle to allow free movement of back and shoulder  4.2 Girth horse, adjusting girth points/billets to ensure saddle is secure with appropriate pressure  4.3 Check panel contact along length of horse's back to confirm even pressure  4.4 Check straightness and balance of saddle seat in relation to where the rider sits  4.5 Select, fit and adjust stirrups to suit rider characteristics  4.6 Evaluate fit of saddle on horse while static with and without the rider, identifying possible adjustments  4.7 Communicate proposed adjustments and expected outcomes for rider and horse and seek approval to make changes  4.8 Observe horse movement, saddle stability and balance, and rider position, in different gaits and make further adjustments if necessary, after consultation with rider  4.9 Determine and select add-on accessories for rider and horse safety and comfort |
| 5. Check and adjust existing saddle | 5.1 Evaluate suitability of existing saddle for current shape of horse, rider physical characteristics and intended use  5.2 Examine saddlery for wear, faults and viability of repairs  5.3 Provide advice on options for adjusting saddlery, including reflocking of padding and realignment of saddle tree, for improved horse and rider comfort and safety  5.4 Make adjustments to saddlery or refer to appropriate manufacturer or repairer |
| 6. Finalise service with client | 6.1 Confirm selection of saddlery equipment with client  6.2 Complete horse and client records according to organisational practice  6.3 Finalise invoice, transaction or service arrangements  6.4 Provide client follow up service as required or agreed |

| 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 |
| Writing | * Complete workplace documentation using industry terminology in print-based and/or digital formats |
| Oral communication | * Use questioning and listening skills to elicit information and confirm and clarify understanding * Use language and tone appropriate for audience to convey information |
| Numeracy | * Take measurements and estimate measurements with reasonable accuracy of horse and rider physical characteristics |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMNEW4X2  Provide saddle fitting and adjustment services | Not applicable | The unit has been created to address a skill or task required by industry | Newly created |

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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 ACMNEW4X2 Provide saddle fitting and adjustment services |
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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:   * investigated the range of current saddle designs and availability and summarised key features, advantages and disadvantages of the following saddle types: * English style - general/all-purpose saddle * dressage saddle * jumping saddle * Australian stock saddle * Western style saddle * racing pads/exercise saddle * half breed saddle (cross between Australian stock saddle and Western saddle) * one other special purpose saddle * assessed client needs and requirements for at least three horses of different sizes and shapes, and selected and correctly fitted an appropriate saddle for: * an all-purpose recreational riding activity * two different sport discipline or work activities * assessed two existing saddles used for different horses and purposes and made recommendations for changes/adjustments to meet current horse and/or rider needs * used safe work practices around horses and assessed risks to riders, horses and self in relation to fitting gear. | |

| 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:   * different saddle designs and features related to riding discipline or purpose, including: * English style - general purpose saddle * dressage saddle * jumping saddle * Australian stock saddle * Western style saddle * racing pads/exercise saddles * half breed saddle (cross between Australian stock saddle and Western saddle) * special purpose saddles * basics of saddle construction, including: * types and benefits and limitations of leather and synthetic materials * key aspects of manufacturing process * main types of saddle tree shapes * panel materials - wool, latex, air * saddle components and their purpose, including (\* denotes Western terminology): * saddle tree * pommel or swell\* * cantle * seat * flaps * girth, cinch\*, surcingle\* * billets or girth points * stirrups and stirrup leathers * panels and lining and padding types * knee or thigh rolls, blocks * accessories - monkey grip or horn\* * equine musculoskeletal anatomy related to saddle fitting, including: * neck - cervical spine * withers * shoulder / scapula and scapula cartilage * sternum * barrel - thoracic spine * last rib * rump - lumbar spine * main muscles - trapezius, latissimus dorsi, triceps and pectoralis muscles * cranial nerve * criteria for assessing saddle fit, including: * rider seat, balance and centre of gravity * wither clearance * channel width * panel contact * girth point/billet alignment * saddle length and straightness * saddle tree angle and width * dangers of unsafe saddlery * rider characteristics to consider in selecting a saddle, including: * physical characteristics influencing seat size, load, stirrup placement * riding experience * intended use of horse - work activity or sport discipline * key signs indicating ill-fitting saddle, including: * horse facial features indicating pain * horse moving down and away from pain when touched * disuse atrophy * swelling, bumps or deformities on spine * white or ruffled hair or saddle sores * horse bloating or biting when girthed * horse stiff and slow to warm up * horse having trouble going up and downhill * bucking, rearing, and resistance * bending, leading issues * process and materials used for reflocking panels and adjusting saddle trees in existing saddles * safe equine interactions and handling techniques, including: * safety zones for interacting with equines * safe body positioning working in close proximity * equine behaviour - herd behaviour and unpredictable reactions * safety of others, including bystanders * importance of using appropriate handling and restraint techniques and minimising stress to horse and risks to self and others * key requirements of biosecurity standards and workplace hygiene relating to gear * key principles and practices of animal welfare relating to use and comfort of gear, and humane and ethical handling of horses. |

| 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: * a range of saddles and associated equipment as specified in the performance evidence * live horses of varying size and shape, assessed as suitable for the experience and skill of the individual, as specified in the performance evidence * relationships: * rider and/or client.   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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