Modification history

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

| ACMEQU406 | Manage selection of horse for new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required in horse behaviour and learning to manage the suitable selection of horses for new and/or inexperienced handlers, riders or drivers.The unit applies to individuals who are horse instructors, coaches or supervisors with work health and safety responsibilities and obligations to workers, learners and participants in their care.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 between industry sectors and state/territory jurisdictions. 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 | The prerequisite unit of competency for this unit is: * ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour.
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| 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. Develop knowledge of horse behaviour and learning theory | 1.1 Evaluate current, evidence-based learning theory and techniques used in horse training and behaviour management1.2 Apply knowledge of horse training and behaviour to evaluate own horses as suitable for use by new and/or inexperienced handlers, riders or drivers1.3 Review own practices against current learning theory to determine if any improvements could be made to managing horse behaviour for workplace activities |
| 2. Assess horse suitability for purpose | 2.1 Identify factors to consider for conducting a fit-for-purpose assessment of a horse to address work health and safety (WHS) requirements2.2 Develop or modify a tool to identify and record horse characteristics and behaviour and assess horse suitability for specified activities2.3 Observe and assess horses to determine their characteristics and behaviour in a range of activities, conditions and stimuli relevant to activities to be undertaken by new and/or inexperienced handlers, riders or drivers2.4 Evaluate outcomes of the assessment and record an activity suitability rating for individual horses in relation to the handler, rider or driver skills according to workplace procedures2.5 Conduct additional horse assessments over time and in response to different scenarios, recording incidents and observing responses of the horse to ensure currency of horse suitability records |
| 3. Assess skills of new worker or participant | 3.1 Conduct an induction briefing covering workplace rules and new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver responsibilities and obligations, prior to their commencing activities3.2 Identify factors to consider, and develop or modify a tool to assess new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver skills and capabilities for specific activities involving a horse3.3 Assess new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver readiness and current knowledge of horse handling, riding or driving3.4 Conduct a practical assessment of new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver with a quiet, consistent and obedient horse in a safe and controlled environment3.5 Determine new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver capability rating objectively against criteria in an appropriate tool, and record according to workplace procedures |
| 4. Match horse to new worker or participant for specific activity | 4.1 Establish a range of safe activities that can be used to assess the suitable matching of horse to new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver4.2 Conduct activities to determine suitable matching of horse to new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver4.3 Discuss with new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver their capabilities4.4 Address any concerns from new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver, including any unrealistic expectations or beliefs they may have about their own abilities or that of the horse |
| 5. Monitor new worker or participant and horse behaviour | 5.1 Observe new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver for any signs of mismatch with horse, inappropriate behaviour or control issues with selected horse, and take action to address these5.2 Monitor horse, including patterns of inappropriate behaviour, and determine action required5.3 Implement ongoing monitoring activities to identify problems and appropriate courses of action |

| Foundation SkillsThis 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 critical information in horse records and records of work experience or training provided by new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver
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| Writing | * Use clear language and accurate industry terminology for recording information about horses and skills of new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver
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| Oral communication | * Convey information clearly using tone and pace appropriate to audience
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| Navigate the world of work | * Follow workplace procedures, including work health and safety (WHS) and animal welfare requirements, and meet expectations relating to own role and area of responsibility
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| Interact with others | * Conduct induction briefings, conveying information to others according to industry practices and WHS requirements and duty of care obligations
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| Get the work done | * Prepare resources and materials to match horse and handlers, riders or drivers, and schedule and sequence activities in logical order
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| Unit Mapping Information |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMEQU406 Manage selection of horse for new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver | Not applicable | New unit | No 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=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103> |

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for ACMEQU406 Manage selection of horse for new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver |
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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 managed the selection and matching of horses for at least three riders, handlers or drivers, consisting of new or inexperienced, and experienced, capable riders, handlers or drivers, including:* testing horses through riding, handling and/or driving activities and observations to determine levels of behaviour, reactions and education to categorise them according to workplace assessment ratings and procedures
* assessing new or inexperienced handlers, riders or drivers with quiet, consistent and obedient horses to determine their skill levels and abilities
* allocating handlers, riders or drivers to suitable horses and appropriate activities once assessed
* monitoring suitability of horse and handler, rider and/or driver to workplace activity involving horses, with reference to safety of individual and horse wellbeing
* responding to problems by changing the horse, educating the handlers, riders and/or drivers, and/or changing activities to ensure the safety of participants and horses.
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| 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:* factors to consider in determining handler, rider or driver skills and experience
* factors to consider in assessment of horse suitability (fit-for-purpose):
* experience and training
* temperament and behaviour
* horse reactivity to normal, abnormal and new situations
* types of mismatch between horse and participant
* potential consequences of inappropriately matched horses and handlers, riders or drivers:
* horses displaying avoidance or dangerous behaviours
* rider, handler or driver loses control of the horse and/or loses confidence
* injuries to rider, handler, driver or horse
* ongoing horse problems and appropriate courses of action, including removal and/or retraining.
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| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:* physical conditions:
* a workplace or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions
* safe, controlled environment for practical skills assessment of new and/or inexperienced handler, rider or driver
* resources, equipment and materials:
* various horses to be assessed for suitability
* appropriate gear and tack for horses for handling, riding or driving assessment
* personal protective equipment (PPE), correctly fitted and applicable to activity
* relationships:
* opportunities to assess skills and capabilities of handlers, riders or drivers with varying levels of experience.

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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