

Modification history

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

ACMEQU4X6	Manage selection of horse for handler or rider Manage selection of horse for new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver
Application	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge to manage the suitable selection of horses for new or inexperienced handlers, riders or drivers. It involves the application of theoretical knowledge of horse behaviour and learning to ensure safety in the workplace</p> <p>The unit applies to supervisors, instructors, or coaches working in horse operations who have workplace health and safety responsibilities for selecting and matching horses appropriate for the skills of workers, learners and participants in their care.</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, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>
Prerequisite Unit	<p>Nil</p> <p>Prerequisite unit of competency for this unit is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACMEQU205 Apply knowledge of horse behaviour
Unit Sector	Equine (EQU)

Commented [SH1]: Simplified title

Commented [SH2]: Consider removing this prerequisite - horse behaviour is covered sufficiently in element 1 and revised KE

Commented [SH3]: Language reviewed and simplified - term - new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver simplified to handler or rider

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. Apply knowledge of horse behaviour and learning theory	1.1 Evaluate current, evidence-based learning theory and techniques used in horse training and behaviour management 1.2 Apply knowledge of horse training and behaviour to evaluate suitability of horses for use by handlers or riders 1.3 Review own practices against current learning theory and determine if 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 current work health and safety (WHS) requirements 2.2 Record horse characteristics and behaviour and assess horse suitability for specified activities using an appropriate tool 2.3 Observe and assess horses in a range of conditions and stimuli relevant to activities to be undertaken by handlers or riders 2.4 Evaluate assessment outcomes and rate individual horse suitability for the activity according to workplace procedures 2.5 Conduct additional horse assessments over time and in varying conditions, recording incidents and observing horse responses to ensure currency of horse suitability records

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Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
3. Assess skills of handler or rider	3.1 Conduct an induction briefing covering workplace rules and handler or rider responsibilities and obligations 3.2 Identify and record criteria to consider in determining the capability of a handler or rider to undertake specific activities involving a horse 3.3 Assess readiness and current horse behaviour knowledge of handler or rider 3.4 Conduct a practical assessment of handler or rider with a quiet, consistent and obedient horse in a safe and controlled environment 3.5 Determine and record handler or rider capability rating objectively against criteria using an appropriate tool
4. Match horse to handler or rider or specific activity	4.1 Establish safe activities to assess and match the suitability of the horse and handler or rider 4.2 Conduct activities to determine suitable matching of horse handler or rider 4.3 Discuss assessment outcome and capabilities with handler or rider 4.4 Address concerns or expectations the handler or rider may have about their own abilities or that of the horse
5. Monitor handler or rider and horse behaviour	5.1 Observe handler or rider for any signs of mismatch with horse, inappropriate behaviour or control issues with selected horse, and take action to address 5.2 Monitor horse behaviour and determine if action is required 5.3 Implement ongoing monitoring activities to identify problems and appropriate courses of action

Commented [SH3]: Language reviewed and simplified - term -new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver simplified to handler or rider

Commented [SH4]: 3.4 Agreed horse terminology from last project - is it still appropriate?

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
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access and interpret key information in horse records and records of work experience or training provided by handler or rider
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use objective and accurate industry terminology for recording information about horse behaviour and characteristics Complete workplace forms using appropriate language to record the skills of the handler or rider
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in verbal exchanges using language, tone and pace appropriate for audience

Unit Mapping Information

Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
ACMEQU4X6 Manage selection of horse for handler or rider	ACMEQU406 Manage selection of horse for new or inexperienced handler, rider or driver	Title changed Prerequisite removed Minor changes to performance criteria and terminology for clarity Foundation skills table updated Knowledge evidence updated with increased knowledge of horse behaviour	Equivalent

Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet:
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ACMEQU4X6 Manage selection of horse for handler or rider

	https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103
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TITLE	Assessment requirements for ACMEQU4X6 Manage selection of horse for handler or rider
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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recorded observations for at least three different horses and assessed behaviour and education level to determine a suitability (fit for purpose) rating • assessed the experience and skills and managed the selection and matching of horses for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least two new or inexperienced, riders, handlers or drivers • at least one experienced, capable rider, handler or driver • monitored the suitability of horse match with each handler, rider or driver for the workplace activity with reference to safety of individual and horse wellbeing. 	

Commented [SH5]: Added volume/frequency

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"> • behavioural characteristics of domestic horses, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • handled and unhandled horses • herd behaviour • stabled or yarded horses • horse behaviour, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • body language and vocalisations • affective states, including fear, anxiety, hunger, fatigue • behaviours and conditions typically linked to strong fight or flight response • high-risk behaviours (biting, kicking, panicking, extreme flight response) • fundamentals of equine learning theory • factors to consider in determining handler, rider or driver skills and experience • factors to consider in assessment of horse suitability (fit-for-purpose): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience and education • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • potential problems and appropriate courses of action, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changing, removing and/or retraining horses • educating handlers, riders or drivers • changing activities to ensure the safety of participants and horses. • key requirements of regulations, codes of practice and workplace policies and procedures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work health and safety when interacting with horses • animal welfare relevant to horses. 	

Commented [SH6]: Added more points on horse behaviour to address removal of prerequisite

Assessment Conditions	
<p>Assessment of the skills in this unit of competency 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 • safe, controlled environment for practical skills assessment of handler, rider or driver specified in the performance evidence • resources, equipment and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • various live horses to be assessed for suitability • appropriate tack and gear for horses for handling, riding or driving assessment 	

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Assessment Conditions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• personal protective equipment (PPE), correctly fitted and applicable to activity• relationships:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• handlers, riders or drivers with varying levels of experience as specified in the performance evidence.	
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.	
Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103