

<b>Title</b>	<b>Assess and evaluate a horse's conformation and action, and describe management of conformation faults</b>		
<b>Level</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>6</b>

<b>Purpose</b>	People credited with this unit standard are able to: identify horse anatomy and identify and evaluate conformation of a horse's head, neck, body, and legs; assess and evaluate a horse's action; and describe the management of a horse's conformational faults.
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<b>Classification</b>	Equine > Equine Health
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<b>Available grade</b>	Achieved
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### Guidance Information

- 1 Legislation relevant to this unit standard includes but is not limited to:
  - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015; and any subsequent amendments.
- 2 Definition  
*Workplace procedures* are the documented policies and practices for safety and procedures within a particular workplace, and are consistent with the Code of Welfare: Horses and Donkeys (2018) available at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11003-horses-and-donkeys-code-of-welfare>.
- 3 For the purposes of assessment:
  - evidence for the practical components of this unit standard must be supplied from the workplace.

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### Outcomes and performance criteria

#### Outcome 1

Identify horse anatomy and identify and evaluate conformation of a horse's head, neck, body, and legs.

Range breeds: one of – hot blood, warm blood, cold blood;  
 uses: one of – equestrian, harness, galloper.

#### Performance criteria

- 1.1 Identify points of the horse and external body parts by name and location.

- 1.2 Identify and evaluate head and neck conformation in terms of breed and use.
- Range head – size, set; nose – shape; eyes – size, set, appearance; nostrils – size; mouth – shape; throatlatch or jowls – size, shape; neck – length, shape, set.
- 1.3 Identify and evaluate body conformation in terms of breed and use.
- Range chest – width; shoulder – slope, muscle; withers – height, balance; body – shape, depth; back – length, shape; hips – level, width; rump – shape, muscle; stifle – shape; girth – depth; loin – length, width, musculature; hip and croup – slope, length, level.
- 1.4 Identify and evaluate leg conformation in terms of breed and use.
- Range gaskin – length, muscle; forearm – length, muscle; cannons – length, bone; knees – size, set, shape; joints – size, shape; hock – size, shape; hindleg and front leg – angle, shape, stance; pastern – length, slope, shape.
- 1.5 Identify and evaluate hoof conformation in terms of breed and use.
- Range symmetry, size, shape, balance, health.
- 1.6 Identify and evaluate the overall balance of the horse in terms of breed and use.
- Range may include but is not limited to – symmetry, length-height proportion, levelness of top line, depth of heart girth to leg, centre of the horse, top-to-bottom line ratio, square, thirds, equal lengths.

## Outcome 2

Assess and evaluate a horse's action.

### Performance criteria

- 2.1 Describe techniques used to assess straightness of action.
- 2.2 Assess a horse's action to determine straight action in accordance with workplace procedures.
- 2.3 Assess a horse's action to determine variations of straight action in accordance with workplace procedures.
- 2.4 Evaluate a horse to determine the relationship between conformation and action in accordance with workplace procedures.

## Outcome 3

Describe the management of a horse's conformational faults.

**Performance criteria**

3.1 Describe the ways in which conformational faults affect the structure, function, and purpose of the horse.

Range performance, appearance, stress on body and legs, action, soundness.

3.2 Describe how conformational faults respond to management and intervention techniques.

3.3 Describe the use of management techniques to maximise horses' potential and minimise risks associated with conformational faults.

Range evidence of two techniques is required.

<b>Planned review date</b>	31 December 2025
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**Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions**

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	28 October 1994	31 December 2022
Review	2	23 October 1996	31 December 2022
Review	3	24 June 1998	31 December 2022
Review	4	25 September 2003	31 December 2022
Review	5	17 October 2008	31 December 2022
Review	6	28 May 2020	N/A

<b>Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference</b>	0018
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

**Comments on this unit standard**

Please contact the Primary ITO [standards@primaryito.ac.nz](mailto:standards@primaryito.ac.nz) if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.