

Training Package	Rural Production (RTE03)	HSC Requirements and Advice
Title	Muster and move livestock	
Unit code RTE2115A	This competency standard covers the functions required to work as part of a team in the mustering and movement of livestock. It requires a working knowledge of livestock behaviour, health and nutritional requirements and the application of safe and humane livestock handling skills. Competency requires an awareness of legislative requirements with regard to animal welfare. The work is likely to be carried out under routine supervision within enterprise guidelines.	HSC Indicative Hours 10

Evidence Guide

What evidence is required to demonstrate competence for this standard as a whole?

Competence in this standard requires evidence of the ability under supervision to safely and humanely muster and move livestock along prepared routes in a calm and controlled manner. It requires the ability to implement a muster plan, operate and maintain muster vehicles, interpret maps, monitor and anticipate livestock behaviour, provide and maintain appropriate livestock health and nutritional requirements. Evidence must also be demonstrated in the employment of safe workplace and positive environmental practices.

The skills and knowledge required to muster and move livestock must be **transferable** to another work environment. For example, if competence is evident in the mustering and moving of sheep, it must also be evident in operations to muster and move beef cattle.

What specific knowledge is needed to achieve the performance criteria?	What specific skills are needed to achieve the performance criteria?	Are there other competency standards that could be assessed with this one?	Assessment guide	HSC Requirements and Advice
<p>Knowledge and understanding are essential to apply this standard in the workplace, to transfer the skills to other contexts, and to deal with unplanned events. The knowledge requirements for this competency standard are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mustering and movement methods and techniques • livestock basic health and nutritional requirements • livestock herding/flocking behaviour • environmental codes of practice with regard to livestock production • working dogs uses and techniques (where appropriate) 	<p>To achieve the performance criteria, appropriate literacy and numeracy levels as well as some complimentary skills are required. These include the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide due care and handle livestock safely and humanely • prepare equipment and working dogs (when used) for handling livestock • safely drive vehicles • monitor livestock behaviour and recognise abnormalities • monitor and minimise impacts to the environment • communicate effectively with the muster team • read and interpret muster plans 	<p>This competency standard <u>could</u> be assessed on its own or in combination with other competencies relevant to the job function.</p>	<p>There is essential information about assessing this competency standard for consistent performance and where and how it may be assessed, in the Assessment Guidelines for this Training Package. All users of these competency standards must have access to the Assessment Guidelines. Further advice may also be sought from the relevant Sector Booklet.</p>	<p>Key Terms and Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • animal welfare • confinement of livestock • enterprise requirements • environmental implications • hazards • identification of livestock • legislative requirements • minimising stress in livestock • muster plan • mustering and movement methods and techniques • occupational health and safety (OHS) • personal protective equipment (PPE) • reporting and recording • risk assessment

What specific knowledge is needed to achieve the performance criteria?	What specific skills are needed to achieve the performance criteria?	Are there other competency standards that could be assessed with this one?	Assessment guide	HSC Requirements and Advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operational, maintenance and licensing requirements of transport vehicles • legislative requirements for stock movement along public roads • relevant OHS and animal welfare legislative requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and maps • calculate livestock numbers and assess and calculate feed and water requirements. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) • safe work practices • stock movement • stress in livestock • teamwork • transport requirements and arrangements.

Element	Performance Criteria	Range of Variables	HSC Requirements and Advice
1 Prepare for muster	<p>1.1 Muster plan is accessed and requirements identified and confirmed.</p>	<p>The Range of Variables explains the range of contexts within which the performance and knowledge requirements of this standard may be assessed. The scope of variables chosen in training and assessment may depend on the work situations available.</p> <p>For more information on contexts, environment and variables for training and assessment refer to the Sector Booklet.</p> <p>What livestock are covered by this standard?</p> <p>Beef cattle, sheep, horses and goats.</p> <p>What information may be included in a muster plan?</p> <p>This may include the location and identity of livestock for muster, route details for livestock movement including feed, water and rest points, individual work tasks, equipment, resource and transport requirements, roles of working dogs (when used), communication requirements (vocal, radio, mobile phones), procedures for the muster team and contingency plans in the event of adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>What types of transport may be arranged?</p> <p>Motorbikes, utilities and vehicles, horses and trailers. Transport may also include the use of helicopters for aerial assistance.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Definition of mustering.</p> <p>Reasons for mustering and moving stock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stock health and condition assessment and treatments • preparation for transport or sale • implementation of breeding strategies and plans • managing rangelands in a sustainable way • preparation for impending adverse weather conditions or natural disaster. <p>Purposes of a mustering plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • management of contingencies • health and welfare of stock • efficient use of resources • maintenance of a safe and productive workplace. <p>Information required for inclusion in a muster plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • location and identity of livestock • route details for livestock movement • feed, water and rest points • individual work tasks • equipment • resource and transport requirements • roles of working dogs • communication requirements procedures for the muster team • consequences of adverse weather conditions.
	<p>1.2 Transport requirements are arranged according to the muster plan and checked and confirmed for operation.</p>		<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Transportation suitable for mustering and moving stock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • motorbikes • utilities and vehicles • horses • trailers.

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			<p>Transport arrangements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordination of personnel • the quantity and type of each transport mode required • routine daily and weekly maintenance checks and servicing as required • organisation of sufficient supplies of fuel, feed and consumables • implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and occupational health and safety (OHS) requirements • consideration of disease control. <p>A basic awareness of legislative requirements for stock movement along public roads including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rural Lands Protection Act 1998</i> (NSW) (as amended) • <i>Rural Land Protection (General) Regulation 2001</i> (NSW) • Transported Stock Statement (TSS) • local council regulations • Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) • <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</i> (NSW) (as amended).
	<p>1.3 Additional information relevant to the muster plan is identified and accessed.</p>	<p>What information may be included in a muster plan?</p> <p>This may include the location and identity of livestock for muster, route details for livestock movement including feed, water and rest points, individual work tasks, equipment, resource and transport requirements, roles of working dogs (when used), communication requirements (vocal, radio, mobile phones), procedures for the muster team and contingency plans in the event of adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>What additional information may be relevant to the mustering process?</p> <p>This may include timetables, road maps and property plans, location of shade or shelter, location of fences, gates and laneways, and details of supply providers.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Additional information for the mustering process including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timetables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – trains – road transport – stock routes • road maps • property plans • location of shade or shelter • location of fences, gates and laneways • details of supply providers • location of feed and water sources • health and condition status of stock • composition of flock or herd including age, type, breed, size, pregnant and lactating.

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	<p>1.4 Potential and existing hazards to health and safety are identified, risk assessed and controlled according to OHS requirements.</p>	<p>What existing and potential hazards may be identified?</p> <p>Livestock movement and handling, solar radiation, dust, moving machinery and vehicles.</p> <p>What OHS requirements may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>Safe systems and procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • livestock handling including zoonoses control (Q Fever) • hazard and risk control • manual handling-handling, application and storage of hazardous substances • horse handling • the operation of motorcycles and other vehicles • outdoor work including protection from solar radiation, dust and noise • the appropriate use and maintenance of personal protective equipment. 	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>An awareness of potential hazards including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – uneven surfaces – noise – dust – livestock movement and behaviour – exposed machinery parts – slippery surfaces – obstacles • biological <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – plant/animal allergy – hazardous substances – insects – spiders – snakes • ergonomic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – inappropriate use of tools/equipment – poor manual handling • environmental <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – climate – disposal of waste – solar radiation • psychological <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – dealing with emergencies – isolation. <p>A basic understanding of risk assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify hazards • assess associated risks • strategies to control/eliminate risks. <p>An awareness of appropriate OHS strategies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • select, use and maintain appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) • sufficient drinking water • basic first aid training • access to first aid kit • safe work practices and procedures • access to appropriate communication devices • emergency plan • safety signs • environmental policies.

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2 Carry out muster	<p>2.1 Suitable personal protective equipment is selected, used and maintained according to OHS requirements.</p>	<p>What personal protective clothing and equipment may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>This may include boots, helmet, overalls, gloves, protective eyewear, hearing protection, respirator or face mask, and sun protection (sun hat, sunscreen).</p> <p>What OHS requirements may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>Safe systems and procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • livestock handling including zoonoses control (Q Fever) • hazard and risk control • manual handling-handling, application and storage of hazardous substances • horse handling • the operation of motorcycles and other vehicles • outdoor work including protection from solar radiation, dust and noise • the appropriate use and maintenance of personal protective equipment. 	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Selection, use, maintenance and storage of (PPE) appropriate to work task.</p> <p>A range of PPE including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • footwear • head protection – hard hat, sun hat and helmet • gloves • overalls • apron • respirator • face mask • hearing protection • eye protection – goggles, safety glasses and face guard • sunscreen • waterproof clothing. <p>Importance of correct fitting PPE.</p> <p>Maintenance of PPE according to manufacturer’s instructions and enterprise SOP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleaning and decontamination • correct storage • regular checks for damage • repair/replacement of worn, malfunctioning or damaged equipment/parts • disposal of single-use equipment.
	<p>2.2 Livestock identified in the muster plan are located and aggregated in preparation for movement.</p>	<p>What livestock are covered by this standard?</p> <p>Beef cattle, sheep, horses and goats.</p> <p>What information may be included in a muster plan?</p> <p>This may include the location and identity of livestock for muster, route details for livestock movement including feed, water and rest points, individual work tasks, equipment, resource and transport requirements, roles of working dogs (when used), communication requirements (vocal, radio, mobile phones), procedures for the muster team and contingency plans in the event</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Livestock location and identification prior to muster including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manager’s written or oral instructions • visual assessment • farm paddock plan • animal identification methods, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – tags – collars – brands – colour and markings – condition – breed

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		<p>of adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>What enterprise requirements may be applicable to this standard?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sex - reproductive status - health.
	<p>2.3 Muster processes are conducted according to the muster plan and enterprise requirements.</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), industry standards, production schedules, MSDS, work notes and plans, product labels, manufacturers specifications, operators manuals, enterprise policies and procedures (including waste disposal, recycling and re-use guidelines), and supervisors oral or written instructions.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>A basic understanding of mustering and movement methods and techniques.</p>
	<p>2.4 Environmental implications associated with livestock activity are recognised, assessed and reported to the supervisor.</p>	<p>What environmental implications may be associated with livestock activity?</p> <p>Negative environmental impacts may result from high-density livestock activity, particularly in holding or confined areas, causing increased run-off flows, loss of ground cover, soil disturbance, pugging, dust problems, weed seeds in animal manure, and contamination of ground and surface water supplies.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Negative environmental impacts associated with livestock activity in holding yards and confined areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased run-off flows • loss of ground cover • soil disturbance • pugging • dust problems • weed seeds in animal manure • contamination of ground and surface water supplies. <p>Reporting of environmental implications and impacts to supervisor or including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • verbal • written • electronic.
<p>3 Move livestock</p>	<p>3.1 Livestock movement is conducted with minimal stress to livestock without damage to person, property or environment.</p>	<p>What considerations may be involved in the movement livestock?</p> <p>This may include conducting the move in a controlled and quiet manner to destination, giving livestock time to settle, and ensure the closure of gates.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Awareness of the variability of livestock responses depending on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breed • experience • context. <p>Movement of livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pen to paddock • paddock to paddock

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paddock to pen. <p>Causes of stress in livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inadequate feed or access to water • overcrowding • disease • impending parturition • stage in oestrous cycle • potentially harmful stimuli (noise, smell, taste, visual, physical and electric shocks) • overgoading • fatigue. <p>Processes to reduce stress to livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducting the move in a controlled and quiet manner to destination • giving livestock time to settle • ensuring the closure of gates.
	<p>3.2 Livestock welfare is monitored and maintained during movement with adequate provision of rest, water and feeding points.</p>		<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>A basic understanding of legislative requirements when mustering and moving livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979</i> (NSW) (as amended). • <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 1996</i> (NSW) • Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. <p>A basic understanding of the role of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Welfare Unit, NSW Agriculture • Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) NSW • Animal Welfare League (AWL) NSW • Rural Lands Protection Board.
	<p>3.3 Mustering processes are maintained during movement of livestock and any problems are addressed according to the supervisor's instructions.</p>	<p>How might the safe mustering of livestock be carried out?</p> <p>In the application of controlled and calming techniques, including the control and direction of working dogs (when used), to minimise stress to</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Safe mustering of livestock including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the application of controlled and calming techniques • control and direction of working dogs

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		livestock and prevent risks to young livestock of smothering, and ensuring that communication between the muster team exists at all times.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal stress to livestock • continuous communication between muster team members. <p>Problems that occur during mustering including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • single animals or small groups becoming separated from the group • injury, lameness or death to animals • vehicle, equipment or fencing failure • misadventure or injury of personnel • incorrect identification of stock to be moved or mustered.
	3.4 Livestock are confined and pastured at destination, counted and recorded according to enterprise requirements.	<p>What enterprise requirements may be applicable to this standard?</p> <p>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), industry standards, production schedules, MSDS, work notes and plans, product labels, manufacturers specifications, operators manuals, enterprise policies and procedures (including waste disposal, recycling and re-use guidelines), and supervisors oral or written instructions.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Confinement of livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conventional or electric fencing • permanent or temporary yards.

What processes should be applied to this competency standard?

There are a number of processes that are learnt throughout work and life, which are required in all jobs. They are fundamental processes and generally transferable to other work functions. Some of these are covered by the key competencies, although others may be added. The questions below highlight how these processes are applied in this competency standard. Following each question a number in brackets indicates the level to which the key competency needs to be demonstrated where

0 = not required 1 = perform the process 2 = perform and administer the process 3 = perform, administer and design the process

1. How can communication of ideas and information (2) be applied?	Identified hazards or problems encountered during the muster and movement process may be communicated to the muster team and the supervisor.
2. How can information be collected, analysed and organised (1) ?	Information with regard to the muster and movement process and outcomes may be assessed against the muster plan and organised by enterprise reports.
3. How are activities planned and organised (2) ?	Livestock movement may be planned and co-ordinated with appropriate rest, feed and water opportunities.
4. How can team work (1) be applied?	Team work may be applied in the communication of methods and procedures to control livestock during the mustering and movement processes.
5. How can the use of mathematical ideas and techniques (1) be applied?	Mathematics may be applied in the calculation of livestock numbers prior to and post livestock muster and movement processes.
6. How can problem-solving skills (2) be applied?	Contingencies in the event of adverse weather conditions or uncontrolled livestock movement may be planned and prepared to minimise disruption to work schedules.
7. How can the use of technology (1) be applied?	To communicate, calculate livestock numbers and record muster and movement outcomes.