

Training Package	Rural Production (RTE03)	HSC Requirements and Advice
Title	Handle livestock using basic techniques	
Unit code	This competency standard covers the functions required to move, draft and control livestock using basic methods and procedures in an agricultural enterprise. It requires the application of skills and knowledge to carry out livestock handling operations safely and humanely in prepared handling areas using appropriate equipment and techniques. Competency requires an awareness of animal welfare legislative requirements and enterprise workplace safe practices. The work is likely to be carried out under routine supervision within enterprise guidelines.	HSC Indicative Hours
RTE2118A		15

Evidence Guide

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

Competence in this standard requires evidence of the ability to identify and draft livestock for handling operations using equipment, and calm and humane methods to minimise undue stress and risk to livestock or handlers. It requires the ability to follow, interpret and apply task instructions, prepare handling areas, gates and access routes for livestock movement, move and control livestock, monitor and anticipate livestock behaviour, and recognise and report hazards or movement problems for remedial action. Evidence must also be demonstrated in the employment of safe workplace and positive environmental practices.

The skills and knowledge required to handle livestock using basic techniques must be **transferable** to another rural environment. For example, if competence is evident in the drafting and movement of sheep, it must also be evident in the conduct of handling operations for beef and dairy 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"> • livestock breeds and basic nutritional and welfare requirements • livestock behavioural characteristics and movement in handling areas • components and functions of handling equipment • handling techniques and restraint methods 	<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 in the handling of livestock • recognise enterprise livestock identification systems • safely drive vehicles, and ride horses and motorbikes without damage to person, property or environment • recognise livestock abnormalities • control environmental impacts associated with livestock 	<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 legislation • code of practice • control, draft and sort livestock • distracters • enterprise requirements • environmental implications • handling equipment and techniques • hazards • identification systems • livestock behaviour • livestock count • livestock residue and waste disposal • occupational health and safety (OHS) • personal protection equipment (PPE)

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"> • enterprise livestock identification systems • environmental codes of practice with regard to livestock production • OHS and animal welfare legislative requirements • regulatory controls with regard to handling livestock on public roads. 	<p>production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply contingency measures for handling livestock in the event of adverse weather conditions • observe and describe the behaviour of livestock • read and comprehend oral and written information and instructions, write basic statements and maintain livestock handling records • assess and calculate livestock numbers. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparing and maintaining livestock handling facility/area • <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW)</i> (as amended) • <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 1996 (NSW)</i> • recording and reporting • restraint equipment and methods • risk assessment.

Element	Performance Criteria	Range of Variables	HSC Requirements and Advice
1 Prepare for handling livestock	1.1 Livestock handling areas, gates and access routes are identified, prepared and maintained according to enterprise requirements .	<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 may be involved in preparing and maintaining livestock handling areas?</p> <p>This may involve ensuring yards/pens are kept in good repair, contaminants are removed, dust is settled by watering down, feed and water troughs are maintained to industry standards, and gates and access routes are clear of any obstructions that may cause injury to livestock or handlers.</p> <p>What enterprise requirements may be applicable to this standard?</p> <p>SOP, 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>What types of handling equipment may be used?</p> <p>This may include crush/bail or crutching cradles, mulesing and marking cradles, jetting, drenching and dipping equipment, gates, pens, races, loading ramps, tag applicators, branding equipment, dehorners, inoculating equipment, leg ropes, nose rings, scales, foot baths, and feet trimming equipment. It may also include the use of pig boards and snares.</p> <p>What livestock may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>Livestock may include beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Preparation of handling facility including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring yards/pens are to industry standards and comply with associated legislation • handling equipment is functioning correctly according to manufactures specifications • contaminants are removed • dust is settled • feed and water troughs are maintained to industry standards • gates and access routes are clear of obstructions that may cause injury to livestock or handlers. <p>Enterprise requirements including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipment operator’s manuals • enterprise policies and procedures (including waste disposal) • supervisor’s oral or written instructions. <p>Knowledge of a range of associated equipment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crush/bail or crutching cradles • mulesing and marking cradles • jetting, drenching and dipping equipment • gates • pens • races • loading ramps • leg ropes • scales • foot baths • feet trimming equipment.

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	<p>1.2 Livestock are located and identified for handling according to supervisors instructions.</p>	<p>How might livestock be identified for handling?</p> <p>Livestock may be identified by ear tags or ear marks, raddle, sprays, silicon chip implants, tattoos, numbering, tail or collar tags, freeze or paint branding, leg bands, computerised collars/anklets, or colour, breed and sex.</p> <p>What enterprise requirements may be applicable to this standard?</p> <p>SOP, 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>What livestock may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>Livestock may include beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>A basic understanding of enterprise methods of stock identification including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tags (ear, tail and collar) • raddle • sprays • silicon chip implants • tattoos • freeze and paint branding • leg bands • computerised collars/anklets • colour, breed and sex. <p>Awareness of the purpose of handling livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • marking • weighing • condition scoring • disbudding procedures • flystrike and jetting treatments • health checks.
	<p>1.3 Behavioural characteristics of livestock are observed, anticipated and appropriate handling methods selected.</p>	<p>What type of behavioural characteristics might be observed?</p> <p>This may include characteristics of dominance, the composition of mob, effect of weather conditions, and fear of handlers.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>A basic understanding of behavioural characteristics of livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dominance • composition of mob • effect of weather conditions • fear of handlers. <p>Awareness of common distracters enabling anticipation of changes in behaviour including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – puddles – metal surfaces • noise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – chains – metal banging – high-pitched noise • movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – air drafts – hanging objects

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fan blades - people • changes in flooring and texture including drainage grates • visual distracters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - colour - light and dark areas - glare.
	<p>1.4 Handling equipment is selected, checked for soundness and prepared for use according to manufacturers specifications and supervisors instructions.</p>	<p>What enterprise requirements may be applicable to this standard?</p> <p>SOP, 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>What types of handling equipment may be used?</p> <p>This may include crush/bail or crutching cradles, mulesing and marking cradles, jetting, drenching and dipping equipment, gates, pens, races, loading ramps, tag applicators, branding equipment, dehorners, inoculating equipment, leg ropes, nose rings, scales, foot baths, and feet trimming equipment. It may also include the use of pig boards and snares.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Selection and preparation of handling equipment as instructed by the supervisor’s oral or written instructions, and in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications.</p> <p>Components and function of a range of handling equipment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crush/bail or crutching cradles • mulesing and marking cradles • jetting, drenching and dipping equipment • gates • pens • races • loading ramps • leg ropes • scales • foot baths • feet trimming equipment. <p>Considerations for the selection of equipment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • task requirements • access and availability • cost • occupational health and safety (OHS) considerations • animal welfare. <p>Checks to equipment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • damage • replacement of consumables • wear and tear.

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	<p>1.5 Existing and potential hazards in the workplace are recognised, risk assessed and controlled according to OHS requirements.</p>	<p>What existing and potential hazards may be encountered in the workplace?</p> <p>Livestock movement and handling, solar radiation, organic and other dusts, hazardous noise, 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"> • handling livestock including zoonoses control (Q Fever, Orf, Hydatid disease) • operating handling equipment • hazard and risk control • manual handling • handling, application and storage of hazardous substances • horse and working dog 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.

Element	Performance Criteria	Range of Variables	HSC Requirements and Advice
2 Handle livestock	2.1 Suitable personal protective equipment is selected, used and maintained according to OHS requirements.	<p>What personal protective 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"> • handling livestock including zoonoses control (Q Fever, Orf, Hydatid disease) • operating handling equipment • hazard and risk control • manual handling • handling, application and storage of hazardous substances • horse and working dog 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 personal protective equipment (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 Standard Operating Procedures (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.
	2.2 Procedures to control, draft and sort livestock are conducted with due care according to OHS and animal welfare requirements.	<p>What procedures may be implemented to control, draft and sort livestock?</p> <p>Procedures may include the appropriate use of handling equipment with minimum force, a reasonable amount of time for livestock to complete movement, and the use of positive and calming techniques to foster the physical and mental wellbeing of livestock. Dogs may also be used to assist in the controlling and directing of livestock.</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.

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		<p>What OHS requirements may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>Safe systems and procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • handling livestock including zoonoses control (Q Fever, Orf, Hydatid disease) • operating handling equipment • hazard and risk control • manual handling • handling, application and storage of hazardous substances • horse and working dog 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>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>A basic understanding of procedures to control, draft and sort livestock include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriate use of handling equipment with minimum force • reasonable amount of time for livestock to complete movement • use of positive and calming techniques. <p>Use of working dogs to assist in the controlling and directing of livestock.</p> <p>An awareness of the purposes for controlling, drafting and sorting livestock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weaning • culling • separating classes of livestock • dividing into management units • marketing. <p>Procedures to control, draft and sort livestock are conducted with due care according to OHS and animal welfare requirements including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stress to animal • injury prevention • animal welfare legislation.
	<p>2.3 Restraint procedures are carried out safely and with minimum stress and discomfort to livestock according to OHS and animal welfare requirements.</p>	<p>What might be involved in livestock restraint procedures?</p> <p>Procedures may involve the use of industry accepted livestock restraint equipment in conjunction with safe and humane handling techniques.</p> <p>What OHS requirements may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>Safe systems and procedures for:</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>A basic understanding of industry-accepted livestock restraint equipment including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crush/bail or crutching cradles • mulesing and marking cradles • headstalls • calf cradles • pigboards • snares • nose rings

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	<p>2.4 Livestock behaviour is continually monitored and anticipated during moving and drafting processes to ensure wellbeing of livestock and safety of handlers.</p>	<p>What type of behavioural characteristics might be observed?</p> <p>This may include characteristics of dominance, the composition of mob, effect of weather conditions, and fear of handlers.</p> <p>What livestock may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>Livestock may include beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats and pigs.</p>	
	<p>2.5 Livestock count is conducted and recorded according to enterprise requirements.</p>	<p>What enterprise requirements may be applicable to this standard?</p> <p>SOP, 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>What relevant information might be recorded and reported?</p> <p>Livestock numbers, details of administered preventative health treatments and outcomes, weight and condition scoring, and any observed abnormalities.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Importance of maintaining accurate records.</p> <p>Difficulties associated with the counting and moving of livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • losing count • safety • counting in multiples • inconsistent flow of animals past the counter.

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	2.6 Environmental implications associated with livestock production are recognised and reported to the supervisor.	What environmental implications may be associated with livestock production? Negative environmental impacts may result from high density livestock activity, particularly in holding or confined areas, causing odour, 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.	Learning experiences for the HSC must address: An awareness of the environmental impact resulting from high density livestock activities in holding or confined areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • odours • increased run-off flows • loss of ground cover • soil disturbance • soil compaction • dust problems • spread of weed seed through animal manure • contamination of ground and surface water supplies.
3 Complete handling procedures	3.1 Livestock handling operations are completed as instructed, and gates and access routes prepared for livestock departure according to enterprise requirements.	What enterprise requirements may be applicable to this standard? SOP, 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. What range of livestock handling operations may be carried out? This may include marking, weighing and condition scoring, disbudding procedures, flystrike and jetting treatments.	
	3.2 Handling areas and equipment are cleaned and maintained and surplus materials stored according to OHS and enterprise requirements.	What types of handling equipment may be used? This may include crush/bail or crutching cradles, mulesing and marking cradles, jetting, drenching and dipping equipment, gates, pens, races, loading ramps, tag applicators, branding equipment, dehorners, inoculating equipment, leg ropes, nose rings, scales, foot baths, and feet trimming equipment. It may also include the use of pig boards and snares.	

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	<p>3.3 Handling area maintenance requirements and equipment faults or malfunctions are detailed and reported according to enterprise requirements.</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"> • handling livestock including zoonoses control (Q Fever, Orf, Hydatid disease) • operating handling equipment • hazard and risk control • manual handling • handling, application and storage of hazardous substances • horse and working dog 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>What enterprise requirements may be applicable to this standard?</p> <p>SOP, 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>An awareness of enterprise procedures for reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • faults • malfunctions • damage • equipment or area needing attention.
	<p>3.4 Livestock residues and waste are disposed of according to OHS and enterprise environmental practices.</p>	<p>What livestock residues may be disposed of?</p> <p>Residues may include skin, testes and carcasses, and may be disposed of by burning, burying or removal to safe site.</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"> • handling livestock including zoonoses control (Q Fever, Orf, Hydatid disease) • operating handling equipment • hazard and risk control • manual handling • handling, application and storage of hazardous substances 	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>An awareness of possible residues from livestock operations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skin • testes • tails • horn • carcasses • dags. <p>An awareness of possible waste including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • used chemicals • out-of-date chemicals • chemical containers and packaging • unrepairable husbandry tools.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • horse and working dog 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>A basic understanding of methods of disposal of livestock residues and waste including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • burning • burying • removal to safe site.
	<p>3.5 Relevant information is recorded and reported according to enterprise requirements</p>	<p>What enterprise requirements may be applicable to this standard?</p> <p>SOP, 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>What relevant information might be recorded and reported?</p> <p>Livestock numbers, details of administered preventative health treatments and outcomes, weight and condition scoring, and any observed abnormalities.</p>	

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?	Information with regard to hazards in the handling area or maintenance requirements may be reported to the supervisor.
2. How can information be collected, analysed and organised (1) ?	Information with regard to the handling operations and their outcomes may be observed and detailed for analysis, and organised by enterprise records.
3. How are activities planned and organised (2) ?	Preparing handling areas and equipment and ensuring access routes are clear and free of obstacles, may be planned and organised prior to livestock movement.
4. How can team work (1) be applied?	Team work may be applied in methods and procedures to move, draft and conduct livestock count to complete handling operations.
5. How can the use of mathematical ideas and techniques (2) be applied?	Mathematics may be applied in the calculation of average weights and condition scores, and the calculation of livestock numbers prior to and post livestock handling operations.
6. How can problem-solving skills (2) be applied?	Contingencies in the event of adverse weather or unsafe access route conditions may require alternative arrangements to be prepared to minimise disruption to work schedules.
7. How can the use of technology (1) be applied?	To communicate, record livestock numbers and data, and weigh livestock.