

Training Package	Rural Production (RTE03)	HSC Requirements and Advice
Title	Load and unload livestock	
Unit code RTE2136A	This competency standard covers the work required to load and unload animals for transport. It requires a working knowledge of animal handling techniques and associated facilities and equipment. 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 load and unload animals in a calm and controlled manner. It requires the ability to anticipate animal behaviour, and provide and maintain appropriate animal 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 load and unload animals must be **transferable** to another work environment. For example this may include different types of animals in different yards loaded onto and unloaded from different types of transport.

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"> • animal handling and movement methods and techniques • animal basic health and nutritional requirements • animal herding/flocking behaviour • animal welfare codes of practice • working dogs' uses and techniques (where appropriate) • relevant OHS and animal 	<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 animals safely and humanely • prepare equipment and working dogs (when used) for handling animals • monitor animal behaviour and recognise irregularities • read and interpret muster plans and maps • calculate animal numbers and assess and calculate feed and water requirements. 	<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 handling and movement methods and techniques • animal health and welfare • animal health treatments • codes of practice and legislation • enterprise policies and procedures • hazard • loading and unloading facilities and equipment • loading density • occupational health and safety (OHS) • personal protection equipment (PPE) • recording and reporting • safe work practices

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welfare legislative requirements.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sorting stock • stock identification.

Element	Performance Criteria	Range of Variables	HSC Requirements and Advice
1 Check facilities and equipment for sound working conditions	1.1 Required facilities and equipment are identified.	<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 type of facilities and equipment may be included?</p> <p>Depending on the type of animals being loaded and unloaded, facilities may include yards, pens, fixed and portable loading ramps, cages, prods and dogs.</p> <p>What animals are covered by this standard?</p> <p>Animals covered by this standard include cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Facilities and equipment associated with loading and unloading livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yards • scales • pens • fixed and portable loading ramps • cages • prods • pigboards • visual stimulus • use of dogs. <p>An awareness of the purposes for moving livestock including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transport to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - saleyards - agistment property - agricultural exhibitions • transfer to a vendor.
	1.2 The work site, facilities and equipment are checked for hazards .	<p>What existing and potential hazards may be identified?</p> <p>Animal movement and handling, solar radiation, dust, uneven work surfaces, gates, moving trucks and other vehicles.</p>	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>Pre-use check of facility and equipment ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gates move freely • gate securing figures are working correctly • yards are free of unwanted obstacles • scales are operating correctly • water troughs are cleaned and solid/filled yard sides are sound. <p>An awareness of potential hazards.</p>
	1.3 Repairs and maintenance of facilities and equipment required for the loading or unloading of livestock are carried out where necessary.	<p>What type of facilities and equipment may be included?</p> <p>Depending on the type of animals being loaded and unloaded, facilities may include yards, pens, fixed and portable loading ramps, cages, prods and dogs.</p>	

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	1.4 Personal protective clothing and equipment is used and stored.	<p>What personal protective clothing and equipment may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>This may include boots, overalls, gloves, protective eyewear, hearing protection, dust mask and sun protection (sun hat, sunscreen).</p>	<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 Load animals	2.1 Animals are mustered, yarded/caught, prepared for transport, loaded and counted using safe working methods .	<p>What animals are covered by this standard?</p> <p>Animals covered by this standard include cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry.</p> <p>What safe working methods may be relevant to this standard?</p> <p>Safe systems and procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • animal handling including zoonoses control (such as Q Fever) • hazard and risk control • manual handling-outdoor work including 	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>A basic understanding of enterprise policies and procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mustering • yarding • counting • loading. <p>Mustering techniques including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of dogs • on horseback

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		protection from solar radiation, dust and noise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the appropriate use and maintenance of personal protective equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two or four wheel ride-on vehicles • contract. An awareness of vehicles used for transportation of livestock including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small trucks • semi-trailers • road trains • rail carriages.
	2.2 Numbers of livestock are recorded according to enterprise procedures.		Learning experiences for the HSC must address: An awareness of information to be recorded as appropriate to the stock handled including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of animals loaded on each transport vehicle • weight of each animal • body score • identification of animals • day and date • operator • animal health at time of loading • special instructions as set down by supervisor.
	2.3 Identification details of individual animals are recorded as required.	What identification systems are used? Identification may include tail tags or other means of identification of animals.	Learning experiences for the HSC must address: A basic understanding of identification systems including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tags (tail and ear) • branding ink • sex • colour • tattoo (temporary or permanent). An awareness of the purposes for identification including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tracing of genetic line • quick reference to age and sex • ease of drafting.

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	2.4 Livestock are loaded in compliance with animal welfare requirements and OHS legislation.	What animals are covered by this standard? Animals covered by this standard include cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and poultry.	<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>A basic understanding of legislation related to the roles and responsibilities of employers and employees with regards to occupational health and safety (OHS) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2000</i> (NSW). <p>A basic understanding of codes of practice and legislation which relate to the industry-accepted practices when handling animals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preloading considerations • loading density • loading • unloading. <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>Minimising stress to animals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal noise • maintaining suitable ambient temperature • not rushing animals • applying sound animal behavioural techniques.
3	3.1 Unload animals Animals are unloaded in safe manner to ensure no injury to personnel or animals.		<p>Learning experiences for the HSC must address:</p> <p>A basic understanding of safe procedures for unloading of stock to reduce damage and/or injury</p>

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			to stock or personnel according to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • industry codes of practice and legislation • supervisor's instructions.
	3.2 Numbers of livestock are recorded according to enterprise procedures.		
	3.3 Agreement on condition of animals is reached with the receiving and/or despatching party.		Learning experiences for the HSC must address: Condition of animals including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • healthy appearance • hydration • body score • lack of visible cuts and/or abrasions.
4 Perform appropriate animal health procedures	4.1 Stock is sorted if required.		Learning experiences for the HSC must address: An awareness of situations where stock are required to be sorted after being unloaded including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presence of injured stock • need for further health procedures • grouping based on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - age - size - sex - reproductive status.
	4.2 Animal health treatments are performed off truck as instructed		Learning experiences for the HSC must address: Possible health treatments following unloading of stock including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vaccination • prevention and/or treatment of internal and external parasites • injuries sustained prior to arrival where applicable • injuries sustained during transit. An awareness of health treatments performed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suitably trained person as stipulated in the enterprise policies and procedures and in accordance with animal welfare codes of

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			practice • veterinarian.
	4.3 Animals are fed and watered to enterprise requirements.		

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 (1) be applied?	Identified hazards or problems encountered during loading and unloading may be communicated to the supervisor or transport operator.
2. How can information be collected, analysed and organised (1) ?	Stock counts can be reconciled with cartage notes.
3. How are activities planned and organised (1) ?	Loading and unloading may be planned and organised with others according to workplace procedures.
4. How can team work (1) be applied?	Team work may be applied in the communication of methods and procedures to control animals during loading and unloading.
5. How can the use of mathematical ideas and techniques (1) be applied?	Mathematics may be applied in the calculation of animals during loading and unloading
6. How can problem-solving skills (1) be applied?	Contingencies in the event of adverse weather conditions or uncontrolled animals 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 and record animal numbers.