### Training Package

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<th>Training Package</th>
<th>Rural Production (RTE03)</th>
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### Title

| Carry out regular livestock observation |

### Unit code

| RTE2144A |

### HSC Requirements and Advice

This competency standard covers the process of carrying out regular observation of livestock and dealing with sickness, injuries and emergencies when they occur. It includes providing support to professional health practitioners.

When the requirements of this standard are achieved, livestock are regularly checked, procedures are efficiently completed, emergencies are dealt with calmly, and symptoms of ill health or injury are identified, reported and actioned promptly.

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 in this standard is likely to be carried out under routine supervision within organisation guidelines.

This unit excludes horses, which are covered under an alternative unit of competency.

### HSC Indicative Hours

10

### Evidence Guide

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

Competence in carrying out regular livestock observation requires evidence that ill health or injury does not go unchecked and is tended according to enterprise guidelines.

The skills and knowledge required to carry out regular livestock observation must be **transferable** to a different work environment. For example, across a range of livestock breeds, ages, types and enterprise procedures.

### What specific knowledge is needed to achieve the performance criteria?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>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:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• the range of ailments that may occur or affect livestock</td>
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<td>• the application of a range of basic treatments under veterinary supervision</td>
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<tr>
<td>• the behaviour of the relevant species</td>
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<td>• environmental controls and</td>
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### What specific skills are needed to achieve the performance criteria?

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<th>To achieve the performance criteria, appropriate literacy and numeracy levels as well as some complimentary skills are required. These include the ability to:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• handle livestock</td>
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<tr>
<td>• identify signs of ill health or injury or signs of injury or abnormality</td>
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<td>• observe, identify and react appropriately to environmental implications and OHS hazards.</td>
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### Are there other competency standards that could be assessed with this one?

This competency standard could be assessed on its own or in combination with other competencies relevant to the job function.

### Assessment guide

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.

### Key Terms and Concepts

- ailments
- animal welfare legislation
- appropriate personnel
- basic treatments
- hazards
- livestock checks
- livestock emergencies
- minimising stress in livestock
- observations
- occupational health and safety (OHS)
- personal protective equipment (PPE)
- risk assessment
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<th>Are there other competency standards that could be assessed with this one?</th>
<th>Assessment guide</th>
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| codes of practice applicable to the enterprise  
- the organisations livestock production and management plans  
- sound management practices and processes to minimise noise, odours and debris  
- relevant legislation and regulations relating to waste and environment management, animal health and welfare, and employment of staff and contractors. | | | | • recording and reporting  
• routine checks  
• selection and use of livestock restraint equipment  
• signs of illness, injury or abnormalities  
• teamwork  
• tools and equipment  
• veterinarian  
• veterinary procedure support  
• visual appraisal  
• work procedures  
• work programs |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Prepare to work with livestock</td>
<td>1.1 Work to be undertaken is interpreted from work program where necessary, and confirmed with management.</td>
<td>The Range of Variables explains the contexts within which the performance and knowledge requirements of this standard may be assessed. The scope of variables chosen in training and assessment requirements may depend on the work situations available. For more information on contexts, environment and variables for training and assessment refer to the Sector Booklet. What <strong>organisation work procedures</strong> may apply to this standard? They will be based on sound agricultural principles and practices and may include supervisors oral or written instructions, livestock production program, organisation standard operating procedures, specifications, routine maintenance schedules, work notes, product labels and Material Safety Data Sheets, manufacturers’ service specifications and operators manuals, waste disposal, recycling and re-use guidelines, and OHS procedures.</td>
<td>Learning experiences for the HSC must address: A basic understanding of animal welfare legislation requirements including: - <em>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW) (as amended)</em> - <em>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 1996 (NSW)</em> - Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. A basic understanding of the role of the: - Animal Welfare Unit, NSW Agriculture - Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) NSW - Animal Welfare League (AWL) NSW - Rural Lands Protection Board. Work programs including: - daily or weekly routines to monitor health and condition of stock - identification of hazards and risks to stock or staff - routine husbandry operations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2 Discussions are held with other workers who may be affected by the activities to ensure continued smooth operation of the process.</td>
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<td>Learning experiences for the HSC must address: Importance of teamwork.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3 Tools and equipment suitable for the work to be undertaken are selected, checked, and maintained if necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.4 Suitable <strong>personal protective equipment</strong> is selected, used and maintained.</td>
<td>What <strong>personal protective equipment</strong> may be relevant to this standard? This may include boots, overalls, gloves, protective eyewear, hearing protection, respirator or face mask, and sun protection (sun hat, sunscreen).</td>
<td>Learning experiences for the HSC must address: Selection, use, maintenance and storage of personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate to work task. A range of PPE including: - footwear</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Carry out livestock checks</td>
<td>2.1 All livestock are routinely checked for signs of ill health.</td>
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<td>What checks might be included in the procedures for determining ill health? Included may be the checking of nasal passages, vaginal or rectal discharge, rectal temperature, coughing, abnormal skin conditions, changes to pulse, respiration changes or abnormal behaviour that may reflect on the health of animals.</td>
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**Learning experiences for the HSC must address:**

- Visual appraisal of livestock to determine health and welfare status including:
  - behaviour
  - condition
  - wellbeing.

- Methods for identification of signs of ill health including:
  - observations
  - routine health checks
  - changes in normal behaviour.

- Observations including:
  - checking of nasal passages
  - vaginal or rectal discharge
  - presence of a cough
  - abnormal skin conditions

- 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.

**Importance of correct fitting PPE.**

Maintenance of PPE according to manufacturer’s instructions and enterprise Standard Operating Procedures (SOP):
- Cleaning and decontamination
- Correct storage
- Regular checks for damage
- Repair/replacement of worn, malfunctioning or damaged equipment/parts
- Disposal of single-use equipment.
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<td>• changes to pulse</td>
<td>Procedure for reporting livestock health and welfare according to enterprise policies including:</td>
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<td>• respiration changes</td>
<td>• immediate notification of health and welfare concerns</td>
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<td>• abnormal behaviour that may provide information about the health of animals.</td>
<td>• enterprise health and welfare register</td>
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<td>• enterprise diary</td>
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<td>• verbal and written communication with the supervisor/owner/operator.</td>
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<td>2.2</td>
<td>Livestock are examined for signs of illness, injuries and abnormalities, and signs of these are reported in the methods prescribed in the organisations work procedures.</td>
<td>What organisations work procedures may apply to this standard? They will be based on sound agricultural principles and practices and may include supervisors oral or written instructions, livestock production program, organisation standard operating procedures, specifications, routine maintenance schedules, work notes, product labels and Material Safety Data Sheets, manufacturers’ service specifications and operators manuals, waste disposal, recycling and re-use guidelines, and OHS procedures.</td>
<td>Learning experiences for the HSC must address: Enterprise procedures for reporting observed or identified illness, injuries and abnormalities including: • notify supervisor verbally and in writing • entry into livestock register. A basic awareness of a range of ailments affecting livestock.</td>
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<td>2.3</td>
<td>While handling livestock, the potential for OHS hazards is continually monitored, risks assessed, and suitable controls implemented.</td>
<td>What actions could be taken to eliminate or minimise the OHS risk? Relevant OHS hazards identification, risk assessment and risk control measures include safe work systems and procedures for: • reducing injuries from livestock, which will include using calming and positive actions to avoid alarming stock • manual handling systems and procedures • preventing infection from injured/sick stock • systems and procedures for outdoor work, including protection from solar radiation • selecting, using and maintaining relevant personal protective equipment • clear communication between workers,</td>
<td>Learning experiences for the HSC must address: An awareness of potential hazards. An basic understanding of risk assessment: • identify hazard • assess associated risks • strategies to control/eliminate risks. An awareness of appropriate occupational health and safety (OHS) strategies including: • select, use and maintain appropriate PPE • basic first aid training • access to first aid kits • safe work practices and procedures • access to appropriate communication devices</td>
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|         |                      | especially when working together within close proximity. All treatment routines for livestock must be carried out in line with the provisions of the Workplace Health and Safety Acts and relevant animal codes of welfare. | - emergency plan  
- safety signs  
- environmental policies. |
| 2.4     | Livestock are handled safely and all required restraints are within the organisations and industry guidelines for animal health and welfare. | What **organisation work procedures** may apply to this standard? They will be based on sound agricultural principles and practices and may include supervisors oral or written instructions, livestock production program, organisation standard operating procedures, specifications, routine maintenance schedules, work notes, product labels and Material Safety Data Sheets, manufacturers’ service specifications and operators manuals, waste disposal, recycling and re-use guidelines, and OHS procedures. | **Learning experiences for the HSC must address:**  
Selection and correct use of livestock restraint equipment including:  
- bails  
- crushes  
- cradles  
- leg rope  
- anti-kick bars  
- minimising stress.  
Enterprise and legislative guidelines for use of livestock restraints.  
Minimising stress in livestock. |
| 3       | Deal with livestock emergencies | **What checks** might be included in the procedures for determining ill health? Included may be the checking of nasal passages, vaginal or rectal discharge, rectal temperature, coughing, abnormal skin conditions, changes to pulse, respiration changes or abnormal behaviour that may reflect on the health of animals. | **Learning experiences for the HSC must address:**  
Common signs of livestock injury including:  
- refusal to stand when approached and encouraged  
- limping  
- self-isolation from flock or herd  
- visual lacerations  
- unnatural gait.  
Important information required to accurately report situation including:  
- identification of animal  
- brief description of situation including  
  - physical observations  
  - time when first observed  
  - primary action taken  
  - location. |
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| 3.2     | Life threatening livestock ailments requiring emergency treatment are notified to the supervisor, manager or veterinarian and immediate assistance is called. |  | **Learning experiences for the HSC must address:**  
Procedures for notifying appropriate personnel of emergency situation related to health of livestock including:  
- who to contact in emergency  
- what information to communicate  
- action following communication. |
| 3.3     | Basic emergency and/or livestock first aid procedures are carried out until professional help arrives. |  | **Learning experiences for the HSC must address:**  
Basic livestock emergency and/or first-aid procedures including:  
- settling of animal where possible  
- reduction of excessive movement where such will aggravate condition  
- isolation where there is likelihood of further injury by other livestock. |
| 3.4     | Serious cuts and abrasions to livestock are promptly reported to the supervisor or to the veterinarian and assistance provided as required during professional treatment. |  |  |
| 4       | Provide veterinary procedure support |  |  |
| 4.1     | Cuts, abrasions and bruises are treated under instruction from the veterinarian, manager or foreman. |  | **Learning experiences for the HSC must address:**  
Enterprise policies and procedures for treating cuts, abrasions and bruises.  
Application of a range of basic treatments under veterinary supervision. |
| 4.2     | Animals are examined for signs of distress or soreness after moving or mating procedures and all abnormalities are reported. |  | **Learning experiences for the HSC must address:**  
Observation indicators:  
- soreness  
- dehydration  
- abrasions  
- distress  
- abnormal behaviour.  
Procedure for notification of health status of stock. |
### Element

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| 4.3  Appropriate treatment is applied as instructed by the manager or supervisor. |  | including:  
- report style (written and verbal)  
- who to report to including  
  - supervisor  
  - manager  
  - foreman  
- contents of report including  
  - person making report  
  - date  
  - reason for report  
  - observations made  
  - action taken  
  - further action required. |

| Learning experiences for the HSC must address: |  | Common treatment procedures including:  
- drenching  
- disinfecting area of injury  
- removal of foreign object  
- hoof trimming. |

### 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?  
   In working with others in the enterprise including animal health practitioners, and in determining the requirements of regular health routines.

2. How can **information be collected, analysed and organised** (2)?  
   By making daily observations of livestock in order to identify changes in health, energy, or reactions to diet.

3. How are **activities planned and organised** (1)?  
   When making requests of animal health practitioners to attend ill or injured livestock.

4. How can **team work** (2) be applied?  
   In working alongside others in the enterprise to achieve collective goals.

5. How can the use of **mathematical ideas and techniques** (1) be applied?  
   In calculating quantities for feed ingredients or medications.

6. How can **problem-solving skills** (2) be applied?  
   When dealing with as yet undiagnosed problems in livestock.

7. How can the use of **technology** (1) be applied?  
   When calculating quantities and times, when communicating with co-workers and supervisors, and in monitoring livestock health.