



RIU 3.6.3 Animal handling elements of competency

Ver 1 15 June 2023

LIVESTOCK

(Including but not limited to cattle, sheep, alpacas)

Competency
(Essential outcomes)

Performance criteria
(The performance needed to demonstrate competency)

1. Observe and interpret basic body language of livestock in different situations	<p>1.1 Distinguish a range of livestock body language</p> <p>1.2 Recognise body language, including posture, facial features, and vocalisation, indicating livestock are relaxed in their surroundings</p> <p>1.3 Recognise body language, including vocalisation, posture, and facial features, indicating livestock are unsettled or in a state of agitation in their surroundings</p>
2. Identify areas of risk around livestock	<p>2.1 Identify situations and behaviour that commonly lead to incidents and injuries when interacting with livestock</p> <p>2.2 Recognise human body language and behaviour to avoid around livestock</p> <p>2.3 Identify positive actions and behaviour that handlers can take to minimise risks when interacting with livestock</p>
3. Describe indications of health and variations to normal health and behaviour in livestock	<p>3.1 Describe normal health and behaviour of livestock in terms of the signs</p> <p>(Range - movement, physical appearance, posture, appetite, general demeanour, social interaction)</p>
4. Prepare to handle livestock	<p>4.1 Confirm work plan with supervisor</p> <p>4.2 Identify, prepare, and maintain livestock handling areas, gates, and access routes</p> <p>4.3 Select, check, and prepare handling equipment (including but not limited to a crush) for use and report missing equipment, malfunctions and need for maintenance as required</p> <p>4.4 Recognise hazards in the workplace and report safety concerns</p> <p>4.5 Select and correctly fit personal protective equipment (PPE)</p>
5. Handle livestock	<p>5.1 Locate and identify livestock for handling</p>



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Competency (Essential outcomes)	Performance criteria (The performance needed to demonstrate competency)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">5.2 Observe and anticipate behavioural characteristics of livestock and choose appropriate handling methods5.3 Move livestock to designated handling areas using low stress techniques and carry out procedures to control, draft, and sort livestock with due care and in line with current university practice5.4 Monitor and anticipate livestock behaviour during moving and drafting processes to ensure wellbeing of livestock and safety of handlers5.5 Conduct or tally livestock numbers or livestock count of groups/mobs and record, or report as required5.6 Recognise and report environmental implications associated with livestock production
6. Safely load livestock into a race or crush	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6.1 Use safe handling procedures to load livestock into a race or crush6.2 Use safe handling procedures to unload livestock from a race or crush
7. Complete livestock handling procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">7.1 Confirm livestock dispersal plan with supervisor as required7.2 Ensure adequate clean water and feed at destination as required7.3 Prepare gates and access routes for livestock departure7.4 Move livestock to designated areas safely and with minimal stress7.5 Clean and maintain handling areas and equipment and store surplus materials7.6 Report handling area maintenance requirements and equipment faults or malfunctions7.7 Dispose of livestock residues and waste in accordance with environmental practices7.8 Record and report relevant information