

Modification history

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version released with SFI Seafood Industry Training Package Version 3.0

SFICRO2X1	Prepare to work with crocodiles
Application	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare to work with crocodiles.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who are introduced to work with crocodiles in a farm environment and in crocodile waterways. While this unit relates mostly to saltwater crocodiles, it also entails comparisons with other crocodile species.</p> <p>All work must be carried out to comply with workplace procedures, according to state/territory health and safety, biosecurity and environmental regulations, legislation and standards that apply to the workplace. Licences or permits may be required for the use of firearms or restricted drugs on crocodiles or if operating vehicles.</p> <p>No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p>
Use Prerequisite Unit	Nil
Unit Sector	Crocodiles

Elements	Performance Criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
1. Identify key features of crocodile anatomy, physiology and behaviour	1.1 Determine the key characteristics of various crocodile species 1.2 Distinguish between the characteristics and behaviour of saltwater crocodiles and freshwater crocodiles 1.3 Research key facts about crocodiles' reptilian nature and their physiology 1.4 Identify the key features and functions of the crocodile anatomy 1.5 Research zoonotic diseases that can affect crocodiles
2. Identify different crocodile species and their behavioural patterns	2.1 Recognise the characteristics and behaviour of saltwater crocodiles 2.2 Recognise the characteristics and behaviour of freshwater crocodiles
3. Determine and observe crocodile safety requirements in remote waterway areas	3.1 Obtain information about crocodile risk factors in remote waterway environments 3.2 Inform relevant personnel and/or members of the public to obey crocodile warning signs 3.3 Participate in waterway activity relating to crocodile care observing all crocodile waterway safety procedures and biosecurity guidelines 3.4 Carry communication equipment and know how to use it when in remote waterway environments
4. Research crocodile farming methods	4.1 Determine the reasons for crocodile farming and the importance of crocodile skin quality 4.2 Identify crocodile farming processes for crocodile breeding, handling and working with hatchlings, juvenile and adult crocodiles
5. Identify legislation, regulations and management programs relating to the protection of crocodiles	5.1 Determine appropriate crocodile protection legislation or regulation 5.2 Identify and observe crocodile management program aims 5.3 Determine biosecurity issues associated with working with crocodiles in captivity and in the wild

Foundation Skills	
<i>This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.</i>	
Skill	Description
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate in a culturally sensitive manner
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret technical information relating to crocodile species

Unit Mapping Information			
Code and title current version	Code and title previous version	Comments	Equivalence status
SFICRO2X1 Prepare to work with crocodiles	N/A		New unit

Links	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.edesuscation.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=e31d8c6b-1608-4d77-9f71-9ee749456273
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TITLE	Assessment requirements for SFICRO2X1 Prepare to work with crocodiles
Performance Evidence	
<p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements, performance criteria and foundation skills in this unit.</p> <p>There must be evidence that the individual has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observed crocodile safety requirements in remote waterway areas on at least five different occasions • observed safe crocodile farming operations on at least five different occasions <p>In doing the above, evidence must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying the differences in crocodile species • observing crocodile risk and safety standards • treating crocodiles humanely • observing legislation and regulation associated with crocodiles • observing biosecurity guidelines • locating and applying required documentation, policies and procedures • communicating with others. 	

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Knowledge Evidence

An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements, performance criteria and foundation skills of this unit. This includes knowledge of:

- species of crocodylians around the world) including:
 - estuarine/saltwater crocodiles - *Crocodylus porosus*
 - fresh-water crocodiles - *Crocodylus johnstoni*
 - alligators
 - gharials and caimans
- the characteristics of crocodiles, and freshwater crocodiles, including:
 - the distinguishing point - the saltwater crocodile can survive in saltwater, using ocean currents to travel long distances
 - their features
 - their behaviour
 - the danger they present
- crocodile reptilian nature:
 - exothermic or cold-blooded without sweat glands so to avoid over-heating they lie in the water or lie with their jaws agape, allowing cool air to circulate over their body
 - survive in a warm habitat and use the water, sun and shade to maintain their preferred body temperature of 30–33°C
 - bask in the sun to ensure the maximum surface area is exposed to sunshine
- key facts about crocodile physiology:
 - powerful jaws with which the animal can grip and rip their prey
 - teeth designed for grasping and holding prey rather than cutting off pieces of meat
 - transparent eyelids that can be closed when the animal submerges, allowing it to see under water
 - scaly sheath and craggy osteoderms and beneath it, another layer of armour, built of rows of bony overlapping shingles, or osteoscutes, that are both strong and flexible
 - powerful immune system
 - ears, eyes and nostrils located at the top of its head, allowing the animal to breath, hear, smell and see about water with just a small part of its body exposed
 - sensory organs which allows the animal to respond to the slightest disturbance in surface water
 - palatal valve (the large chunk of skin in its throat) that prevents water from flowing into the animal's lungs and drowning it when it opens its mouth
- key features of crocodile anatomy, including:
 - different crocodile species size
 - the animal's muscular jaw and muscular tail which helps it swim
 - the crocodile respiratory and cardiovascular system
 - the crocodile's digestive system
- crocodile behavioural patterns, including:
 - food storage in mangroves or submerged logs
 - the animal's ability to move quietly through water with their tails with barely a ripple to give away their presence
 - energy levels
 - increased risk at night because crocodiles are more active at night
 - increased risk during crocodile breeding season from September to April in Australia
 - aggressive female crocodile behaviour when they are defending their nests and young hatchlings
- key drivers that affect crocodile behaviour, including:
 - male to female ratios
 - predators
 - hunger
 - territorial/hierarchy issues
- diseases of crocodiles in captivity, including:
 - metabolic bone disease (MBD) due to incorrect diet and husbandry
 - non-specific septicaemia
 - nutritional diseases osteomalacia
 - fat necrosis and gout
 - mouth rot, or stomatitis

- crocodile health issues, including:
 - thermal stress - where the animal is unable to thermoregulate correctly
 - capture stress - when the animal is caught and handled
 - social stress - arising out of competition and the inability of adults to establish a territory (e.g. enclosure too small, densities too high)
 - low temperatures causing impediments to food digestion
- crocodile risk factors in remote waterway environments:
 - estuarine crocodile habitat - any body of water in northern Australia within 100 km off the coast
 - increased risk at night because crocodiles are more active at night
 - increased risk during crocodile breeding season from September to April in Australia
 - aggressive female crocodile behaviour when they are defending their nests and young hatchlings
- crocodile waterway safety procedures
- appropriate action if confronted by an aggressive crocodile:
 - maintaining sight of crocodile while retreating as rapidly as possible
 - climbing a tree or get into a safe place (vehicle)
 - raising the alarm and identify location of crocodile to others
 - if in a team, ensuring all team members are accounted for and uninjured
 - using communication systems to inform others
- the use of appropriate communication systems
- crocodile management program or policy aims, including:
- reasons for crocodile farming:
 - crocodile skin/leather to produce goods
 - crocodile meat
- the importance of crocodile skin quality in crocodile farming
- zoonotic diseases that can affect crocodiles
- crocodile farming processes for crocodile breeding, handling and working with hatchlings state and territory legislation or regulation associated with crocodile waterways and crocodile activity
- biosecurity guidelines for crocodile farms, for:
 - farm personnel and visitors
 - cleaning processes
 - pens
 - water quality
 - feed
 - animal handling processes, with special care for hatchlings and young crocodiles
 - use of equipment, infrastructure and consumables
 - observing standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- biosecurity guidelines for Australian waterways:
 - not contaminating waterways
 - observing SOPs.

Assessment Conditions	
<p>Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions • resources, equipment and materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crocodile mannequins?? • access to crocodile farms and crocodile waterways • access to crocodile safety documentation, policies and procedures <p>Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.</p>	

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