Modification history

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| Release | Comments |
| Release 1 | This version released with SFI Seafood Industry Training Package Version 2.0 |

| SFICRO2X1 | Prepare to work with crocodiles |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare to work with crocodiles.  The unit applies to individuals who are introduced to work with crocodiles on farms, research facilities or wildlife parks and in crocodile waterways. While this unit relates mostly to saltwater crocodiles, it also entails comparisons with other crocodile species.  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.  No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. |
| Use Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Crocodiles |

| Elements | Performance Criteria |
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| Elements describe the essential outcomes. | Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. |
| 1. Identify key features of crocodile anatomy, physiology and behaviour | 1.1 Determine the key characteristics of various crocodile species and associated risk factors  1.2 Distinguish between the characteristics and behaviour of saltwater crocodiles and freshwater crocodiles  1.3 Identify the key features and functions of crocodile anatomy  1.4 Identify the key drivers that affect crocodile behaviour  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 Research 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 reasons for caring for crocodiles in controlled environments | 4.1 Determine the reasons for crocodile farming and the importance of crocodile skin quality  4.2 Identify reasons for crocodile research and the functions of a crocodile research facility  4.3 Determine the reasons for caring for crocodiles in a wildlife park  4.4 Identify crocodile handling requirements when working with crocodiles in controlled environments  4.5 Identify crocodile biosecurity guidelines for crocodiles in controlled environments |
| 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 controlled environments and in the wild |

| Foundation Skills  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. | |
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| Skill | Description |
| Oral communication | * Communicate in a culturally sensitive manner |
| Reading | * Interpret technical information relating to crocodile species |

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| 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 |

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| Links | Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet:  https://vetnet.edesuscation.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=e31d8c6b-1608-4d77-9f71-9ee749456273 |

| TITLE | Assessment requirements for SFICRO2X1 Prepare to work with crocodiles |
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| Performance Evidence | |
| An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements, performance criteria and foundation skills in this unit.  There must be evidence that the individual has:   * observed crocodile safety requirements in remote waterway areas on at least five different occasions * observed safe crocodile operations on farms, wildlife parks or research facilities on at least five different occasions   In doing the above, evidence must also include:   * identifying the differences in crocodile species * identifying risk factors associated with working with crocodiles * observing crocodile safety standards * treating crocodiles humanely * observing legislation and regulation associated with crocodiles * observing biosecurity guidelines * locating and applying required documentation, policies and procedures * communicating respectfully with others. | |

| Knowledge Evidence |
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| 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 crocodilians around the world including: * estuarine/saltwater crocodiles - Crocodylus porosus * fresh-water crocodiles - Crocodylus johnstoni * alligators * gharials and caimans * the characteristics of saltwater crocodiles and freshwater crocodiles, including: * the distinguishing point - the saltwater crocodile can survive in saltwater, using ocean currents to travel long distances * their features/behaviour * key features of crocodile anatomy, including: * different crocodile species size * the animal's muscular jaw and muscular tail * the crocodile's 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 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 * key drivers that affect crocodile behaviour, including: * male to female ratios * predators * hunger * territorial/hierarchy issues * crocodile health issues, including: * zoonotic diseases * 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 * 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 * the use of appropriate communication systems * crocodile management program or policy aims, including: * maintenance of a large and healthy population of saltwater crocodiles living in their natural habitat * promotion of the saltwater crocodile as a natural resource that has economic use and benefit if used sustainably * respect for the cultural values of the Indigenous population with regard to crocodile management * management of concentrated numbers in areas where there is a high risk to people, livestock and pets * provision for crocodile awareness and information in parks, reserves and conservation areas * reasons for crocodile farming: * crocodile skin/leather to produce goods * crocodile meat * farming techniques aim to preserve crocodile skin quality |
| * crocodile research facility purposes: * to expand knowledge about crocodiles as a species * to assist with the profitability and sustainability of commercial crocodile production * reasons for caring for crocodiles in wildlife parks: * expand public knowledge and appreciation of crocodiles * commercial activity * state and territory legislation or regulation associated with crocodile waterways and crocodile activity * crocodile controlled environment biosecurity guidelines for: * personnel and visitors * cleaning processes * pens * water quality * feed * animal handling processes * use of equipment, infrastructure and consumables * observing standard operating procedures (SOPs) * biosecurity guidelines for Australian waterways: * not contaminating waterways * observing SOPs. |

| Assessment Conditions |
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| Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:   * physical conditions: * skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions * resources, equipment and materials: * access to a crocodile farm, wildlife park or research facility and crocodile waterways * access to crocodile safety documentation, policies and procedures   Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards. |

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