Modification history

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

| SFICRO3X4 | Care for crocodiles over 1.2 metres in a controlled environment |
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| Application | This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to care for crocodiles over 1.2 metres in a controlled environment.    The unit applies to individuals who are caring for crocodiles on farms, wildlife parks or research facilities under minimal supervision. While this unit relates mostly to saltwater crocodiles, it also may entail caring for 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. Prepare for care of crocodiles over 1.2 metres in a controlled environment | 1.1 Gather required equipment, including personal protective equipment (PPE) to prepare for work with crocodiles in a controlled environment  1.2 Determine appropriate crocodile protection legislation or regulation  1.3 Identify and observe crocodile facility policies and procedures  1.4 Ensure fences are robust enough to prevent crocodiles approaching those in adjacent pens  1.5 Determine biosecurity issues associated with working with crocodiles in captivity |
| 2. Address crocodile care principles for crocodiles over 1.2 metres | 2.1 Care for adult crocodiles that are over 1.2 metres in pens within a controlled environment to ensure successful survival rate  2.2 Treat crocodiles humanely, ensuring their body condition is healthy and consider their welfare at all times  2.3 Ensure crocodile pens are not crowded and that all farming activity is conducted in a manner that prevents crocodile skin damage  2.4. Reduce aggressive interactions between individual crocodiles through regular grading and separation on the basis of size or dominance and/or with modifications to pen design that reduce interactions  2.5 Discuss crocodile breeding procedures with relevant personnel to determine if the controlled environment includes breeding activity  2.6 Monitor crocodiles' health to prevent crocodile diseases  2.7 Monitor and document crocodile behaviour and environmental parameters |
| 3. Feed crocodiles over 1.2 metres | 3.1 Identify the nutritional needs of crocodiles over 1.2 metres that are in a controlled environment  3.2 Prepare food and food supplements in line with crocodile feeding plans  food temperature requirements for preparation and storage in accordance with food safety requirements  3.3 Provide food to crocodiles that are over 1.2 metres one to two times a week following standard operating procedures (SOPs) and in accordance with crocodile safety procedures and workplace practices  3.4 Observe variations to individual crocodile eating and thermoregulation patterns, looking for signs of dehydrated crocodiles  3.5 Record feeding process, food and food supplement stock levels and any individual feeding abnormalities |
| 4. Clean pens of crocodiles over 1.2 metres | 4.1 Remove any excess food and record leftover amount in accordance with workplace procedures  4.2 Remove and dispose of dead crocodiles and isolate sick or injured crocodiles in accordance with workplace processes and WHS standards  4.3 Secure drain gate and drop drains to pens about to be cleaned  4.4 Hose pens thoroughly in accordance with workplace procedures  4.5 Scrub pens with a broom and appropriate disinfectant agent, allowing enough time for the disinfectant to take effect  4.6 Hose away all traces of disinfectant and clean the drain and grate of meat and other debris  4.7 Replace drain grate and fill water  4.8 Ensure water is turned off after pen is full and monitor the water temperature to ensure it is between 30 - 34 degrees  4.9 Use re-cycled water as required |
| 5. Secure crocodile facility entry and exits | 5.1 Ensure all crocodile facility entry and exit is through one point for all employees and visitors  5.2 Instruct drivers of vehicles and delivery trucks to drive through wash down bays in accordance with biosecurity guidelines  5.3 Lock crocodile facility gates to restrict access and clearly display a 'no entry unless authorised' sign |
| 6. Conduct crocodile stock administrative activity | 6.1 Check cleaning of work area and disposal of waste materials is completed according to workplace procedures, biosecurity and environmental requirements  6.2 Check condition and storage of tools and equipment, and forward repair requirements to supervisor  6.3 Record relevant data and observations and report any abnormal records to supervisor |

| 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 |
| Writing | * Record data with technical detail relating to crocodile farming |

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| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| SFICRO3X4 Care for crocodiles over 1.2 metres in a controlled environment | 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 SFICRO3X4 Care for crocodiles over 1.2 metres in a controlled environment |
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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:   * conducted all crocodile care activity with crocodiles over 1.2 metres in a controlled environment (farms, wildlife parks or research facilities) on at least five occasions   In doing the above, evidence must also include:   * observing crocodile risk and safety standards * treating crocodiles humanely * observing crocodile biosecurity guidelines * observing legislation and regulation associated with crocodiles * locating and applying required documentation, policies and procedures * securing crocodile facility entry and exits * completing accurate workplace records. | |

| 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:   * crocodile food preparation methods, storing requirements and preventing cross-contamination of food * how to deliver food to crocodiles that are over 1.2 metres in a safe manner * safe and humane crocodile handling techniques and procedures * the principles of crocodile welfare and ethics as set out in relevant codes of practice * over 1.2 metre crocodile care processes, including: * crocodile pens with adequate shade * maintenance of water/land temperatures to maintain crocodile body temperatures of 30-34 degrees Celsius * nesting materials if reproduction is a goal * spreading out food or feeding within separate areas to avoid aggressive competition at feeding time * feeding one to two times per week and providing the size of food that is reflective of the size of individual crocodiles * changing or filtering of water regularly * visual barriers to allow separation and reduce aggression * internal structures to reduce visual stimuli and aggressive interactions where appropriate * land areas that can be used for basking or to escape aggressive interactions with other crocodiles * water of sufficient depth (greater than 0.8 metres) to allow crocodiles to fully submerge and lie on the bottom * crocodile body condition, including: * visual inspection of the neck, abdomen and base of tail to ensure sufficient fat stores * ratio of body weight to length * size of crocodiles in the pens * crocodile social problems resulting in uneven crocodile growth patterns * types of crocodile facilities or controlled environments: * farming * research facility * wildlife park * reasons for poor crocodile survival rates, including: * inappropriate husbandry * incubation conditions * disease * injury * pen maintenance * genetics * social stress * crocodile survival rates compared to the historical records of similar facilities * crocodile skin quality requirements and husbandry methods that prevent crocodile skin damage: * appropriate nutrition * pen maintenance * crocodile health monitoring * diseases of crocodiles in controlled environments, including: * metabolic bone disease (MBD) due to incorrect diet and husbandry * non-specific septicaemia * nutritional diseases osteomalacia * fat necrosis and gout * social stress * crocodile breeding processes in a controlled environment * crocodile risk factors: * increased risk when handling large crocodiles * increased risk at night because crocodiles are more active at night * increased risk during crocodile breeding season * aggressive female crocodile behaviour when they are defending their nests and young hatchlings * state and territory legislation or regulation associated with crocodile waterways and crocodile activity * biosecurity guidelines for crocodile facilities. |

| 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 crocodiles over 1.2 metres in a controlled environment * access to crocodile care policies and procedures * 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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