

**Modification history**

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

<b>SFICRO3X4</b>	<b>Conduct crocodile farm operations with crocodiles over 1.5 metres</b>
<b>Application</b>	<p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to conduct crocodile farm operations with crocodiles over 1.5 metres.</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who with captive crocodiles in a farm environment under minimal supervision. While this unit relates mostly to saltwater crocodiles, it also may entail farming 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>
<b>Use Prerequisite Unit</b>	Nil
<b>Unit Sector</b>	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. Prepare for work in a crocodile farm that are over 1.5 metres	1.1 Gather required equipment, including personal protective equipment (PPE) to prepare for work with captive crocodiles 1.2 Determine appropriate crocodile protection legislation or regulation 1.3 Identify and observe crocodile farm management program aims 1.4 Ensure fences are robust enough to prevent crocodiles attaching those in adjacent pens 1.5 Determine biosecurity issues associated with working with crocodiles in captivity
2. Care for crocodiles that are over 1.5 metres	2.1 Care for adult crocodiles that are over 1.5 metres in outdoor 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 Monitor and document crocodile behaviour and environmental parameters

<b>Elements</b>	<b>Performance Criteria</b>
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>
3. Feed crocodiles that are over 1.5 metres	3.1 Identify the nutritional needs of captive crocodiles that are over 1.5 metres 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 captive crocodiles that are over 1.5 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 drinking patterns 3.5 Record feeding process, food and food supplement stock levels and any individual feeding abnormalities
4. Clean pens for crocodiles that are over 1.5 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 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 it 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 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 farm entry and exits	5.1 Ensure all crocodile entry and exit is through one point for all employees and visitors 5.2 Instruct farm drivers of farm vehicles and delivery trucks to drive through wash down bays in accordance with biosecurity guidelines 5.3 Lock farm gates to restrict access to the crocodile farm 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.*

<b>Skill</b>	<b>Description</b>
Oral communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate in a culturally sensitive manner</li> </ul>
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpret technical information relating to crocodile species</li> </ul>
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record data with technical detail relating to crocodile farming</li> </ul>

### Unit Mapping Information

<b>Code and title current version</b>	<b>Code and title previous version</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Equivalence status</b>
SFICRO3X4 Conduct crocodile farm operations	N/A		New unit

SFICRO3X4 Conduct crocodile farm operations with crocodiles over 1.5 metres

with crocodiles over 1.5			
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<b>Links</b>	Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: <a href="https://vetnet.edesuscation.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=e31d8c6b-1608-4d77-9f71-9ee749456273">https://vetnet.edesuscation.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=e31d8c6b-1608-4d77-9f71-9ee749456273</a>
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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Assessment requirements for SFICRO3X4 Conduct crocodile farm operations with crocodiles over 1.5 metres</b>
<b>Performance Evidence</b>	
<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"> <li>• carried out on-farm crocodile operations with crocodiles over 1.5 metres on at least five occasions</li> </ul> <p>In doing the above, evidence must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• observing crocodile risk and safety standards</li> <li>• treating crocodiles humanely</li> <li>• observing crocodile biosecurity guidelines</li> <li>• observing legislation and regulation associated with crocodiles</li> <li>• locating and applying required documentation, policies and procedures</li> <li>• completing accurate workplace records on crocodile farms.</li> </ul>	

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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:

- the characteristics of estuarine/saltwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*), freshwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus johnstoni*), including:
  - their features
  - their behaviour
  - the danger they present
- crocodile food preparation methods
- crocodile food storage requirements
- how to deliver food to crocodiles that are over 1.5 metres in a safe manner
- cross-contamination of food
- safe and humane crocodile handling techniques and procedures
- the principles of crocodile welfare and ethics as set out in relevant codes of practice
- daily crocodile pen management procedures for crocodiles that are over 1.5 metres
- 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
- crocodile survival rates compared to farm historical records and survival rates from other similar farms
- reasons for poor crocodile survival rates, including:
  - incubation conditions
  - disease
  - injury
  - inappropriate husbandry
  - genetics
  - social stress
- crocodile skin quality requirements
- farming methods that prevent crocodile skin damage:
  - appropriate nutrition
  - pen maintenance
  - crocodile health monitoring
  - social stress
- diseases of crocodiles in captivity, including:
  - metabolic bone disease (MBD) due to incorrect diet and husbandry
  - non-specific septicaemia
  - trichinellosis
  - nutritional diseases osteomalacia
  - fat necrosis and gout
- 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)
  - mouth rot, or stomatitis
  - low temperatures causing impediments to food digestion

- over 1.5 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 farm maintenance procedures, including:
  - adequate water temperatures
  - adequate and functioning water chlorination
  - fault-free infrastructure and equipment
  - adequate supply and use of cleaning chemicals and equipment
  - adequate storage facilities
  - effective cleaning procedures
  - maintenance of records
  - replacement of old chemical solutions
- 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 from September to April in Australia
  - aggressive female crocodile behaviour when they are defending their nests and young hatchlings
- 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
- 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).

<b>Assessment Conditions</b>	
<p>Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• physical conditions:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• skills must be demonstrated in an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions</li></ul></li><li>• resources, equipment and materials:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• access to captive crocodiles that are over 0.5 metres and under 1.5 metres</li><li>• access to crocodile farming policies and procedures</li><li>• access to crocodile safety documentation, policies and procedures</li></ul></li></ul> <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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