



**Australian Government**

# **Assessment Requirements for SISOCVE001 Traverse caves**

**Release: 1**

# Assessment Requirements for SISOCVE001 Traverse caves

## Modification History

Not applicable.

## Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- complete three caving trips and collectively:
  - navigate three pre-planned routes using maps, compass and underground navigation aids
  - utilise options provided in Assessment Conditions to determine two minor adjustments to routes
  - across the three trips, use at least three of the following techniques when traversing caves:
    - squeezing
    - crawling
    - rock scrambling
    - stooping
    - chimneying
    - bridging
    - walking through stream passages
- during each caving trip, consistently:
  - follow safety procedures and safely negotiate hazards
  - comply with minimal impact caving codes.

## Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- organisational safety and emergency response procedures for caving activities
- the key contents of caving codes, in particular those issued by the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF) including:
  - minimal impact caving code
  - code of ethics
- minimal impact techniques specific to the caving environment and why these are important to cave conservation:
  - avoiding sensitive areas and not accessing restricted areas
  - keeping to well used or marked tracks

- avoiding disturbance to cave fauna, nests and bones
- taking care with hand and foot placement
- avoiding or minimising eating in caves, or eating over containers to avoid spillage
- removing all general and human (toileting) waste
- features of different types of local caves and cave formations sufficient to understand the overall characteristics of the cave setting and its particular hazards
- trusted sources and technologies used to access cave maps and guides for the region or locality
- characteristics of different types of cave maps, their different uses and advantages and disadvantages:
  - detailed cave maps
  - developed long sections
  - maps with wall details and labels
- symbols contained on cave maps and what they represent, and other information found on maps:
  - scale
  - map legend
  - magnetic declination
  - markers
  - gradient
  - distance
  - tracks
  - water depth
  - cross sections
  - significant cave features including speleothems
- map and compass techniques used to:
  - calculate bearings
  - orientate map to surroundings
  - determine location and maintain a designated route
- techniques used to estimate distance travelled within caves
- types of navigation aids found in caves and how these can assist with navigation:
  - track markers
  - built infrastructure
  - natural cave features including speleothems, water direction and air flow
- purpose, features, and correct fit for safety, of personal protective equipment for cavers to include:
  - clothing
  - footwear
  - gloves
  - caving helmets
  - headlamps

- techniques used during cave traverses to include those for:
  - squeezing
  - crawling
  - rock scrambling
  - stooping
  - chimneying
  - bridging
  - walking through stream passages
- communication protocols used between cavers to include:
  - calls
  - hand signals
  - whistles
- typical hazards associated with horizontal caving activities, and techniques used to safely negotiate these:
  - falling rocks, water, debris
  - slippery or unstable terrain
  - narrow passages
  - sharp edges
  - vertical squeezes
  - darkness
  - unstable roof and floor
  - rising waters
  - elevated carbon dioxide levels.

## Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in natural caves which feature frequently travelled tracks and a range of formations and features which may or may not be reliably marked on maps.

The following resources must be available to replicate industry conditions of operation:

- first aid equipment
- communication equipment for emergency response
- rescue equipment.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- a group of participants with whom the individual interacts during caving activities
- real workplace situations, or simulated activities, or case study scenarios that test aspects of this unit that involve adjusting planned routes
- personal protective equipment to include:
  - gloves
  - caving helmets

- headlamps
- compasses
- containers for the removal of liquid and solid waste including those for human waste
- cave maps and guides
- caving codes including those issued by the Australian Speleological Federation (ASF):
  - minimal impact caving code
  - code of ethics
- template safety checklists
- organisational safety and emergency response procedures for caving activities.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- have a collective period of at least three years' experience as a caving leader, guide or instructor, where they have applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency; the three years' experience can be part time or full time experience.

## Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guides -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=1ca50016-24d2-4161-a044-d3faa200268b>