



Australian Government

Assessment Requirements for SISOCVE003 Abseil single pitches in caves

Release: 1

Assessment Requirements for SISOCVE003 Abseil single pitches in 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 the following single pitch abseils in natural caves:
 - four descents with a belayer
 - two self-belayed descents
- during each of the above abseils, consistently:
 - follow safety procedures and safely negotiate hazards to descend in a controlled manner
 - connect self to abseil and belay system using appropriate device and or knots
- complete two additional self-belayed descents, simulating a self-arrest and self-rescue to complete the descent
- belay abseilers according to safety procedures, and complete the following:
 - three top rope, top belayed descents
 - one bottom braked descent
 - two simulated abseiler falls, and safely and efficiently secure and release abseilers to continue.

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
- purpose, features, and correct fit for safety, of personal protective equipment for abseiling in caves to include:
 - clothing
 - footwear
 - gloves
 - caving helmets
 - headlamps
 - harnesses of different types, advantages and disadvantages
- features, functions and operation of abseiling equipment used in caves:
 - carabiners

- maillon rapides
- static and dynamic rope and when each might be used
- tape
- sewn sling
- personal attachment systems, including cow's tails
- Prusik cord
- descending devices:
 - assisted locking
 - inline
 - plate
 - figure 8
 - tubular
 - improvised
- belay systems:
 - top rope top belay
 - bottom brake
 - self-belay
- belay devices:
 - assisted locking
 - inline
 - plate
 - figure 8
 - tubular
 - improvised
- types of equipment and knots used, and how to tie them, when:
 - attaching descending devices to abseil ropes
 - attaching belay system to anchors
 - attaching self to back up belay system for self-belays
 - attaching self to anchor
- types of personal and equipment safety checks completed prior to abseiling and belaying
- caving abseiling techniques, and appropriate posture for descents to include those for:
 - walking backwards on wet and dry surfaces
 - self-belayed descents
- techniques for belaying others during cave abseils to include those for:
 - establishing belaying position for effective and safe use of belay system
 - rope handling and maintaining adequate rope tension
 - controlling bottom brake system
 - arresting abseiler falls
 - securing abseiler, tying off belay system and releasing
- reasons for attaching belayer to anchor system when belaying others including:

- minimising belayer movement to retain stable position and stance
- minimising effects of force of abseiler fall and risk of injury to belayer
- minimising risks of belayer fall
- communication protocols used between abseilers and belayers to include:
 - calls
 - hand signals
 - whistles
- typical hazards for single pitch abseiling in caves, and techniques used to safely negotiate these:
 - water pools, streams and seepage
 - falling rocks, water, debris, gear
 - abrasion points
 - sharp edges
 - vertical squeezes and overhangs
 - strong cave breezes
 - darkness
 - rising waters
 - tangled rope
- how to care for abseiling equipment during caving activities to avoid damage, and promote long lifespan
- techniques used to minimise damage to the cave environment when abseiling in caves.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a natural cave where single pitch abseils are completed as part of recreational caving activities.

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:

- participants with whom the individual interacts during caving activities
- personal protective equipment to include:
 - caving helmets
 - headlamps
 - gloves
 - harnesses
- anchors which can include:
 - fixed artificial

- naturally occurring
- artificial removable
- abseiling equipment to include:
 - carabiners
 - maillon rapides
 - rope which can include static and or dynamic rope
 - rope protectors
 - tape or sewn sling
 - personal attachment systems, including cow's tails
 - Prusik cords
 - descending devices
 - belay devices
- 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>