

# LANAnC74 - SQA Unit Code HA8P 04

## Set up and maintain an aquarium



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### Overview

This standard covers the knowledge, understanding and skills required to set up, establish and maintain an aquarium. This might be within a retail setting, a zoo or other wildlife facility, a research facility, for educational purposes or in other settings.

You will need to be aware of your own limitations and ensure that you meet the relevant legal responsibilities for duty of care under animal health and welfare legislation.

This standard is for those with responsibility for setting up and maintaining an aquarium.

In some situations licences may be required for setting up an aquarium.

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 maintain your own professional conduct and ethics and work within the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
- P2 comply with relevant animal health and welfare, and other animal-related legislation and associated codes of practice at all times
- P3 carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies
- P4 select and implement appropriate hygiene and bio-security measures and ensure they are maintained
- P5 select, prepare, use and maintain equipment in a safe, clean and effective condition throughout
- P6 use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- P7 set up the aquarium in accordance with the intended purpose
- P8 introduce specimens into the aquarium in the appropriate manner
- P9 **monitor and maintain the aquarium and the species** within it
- P10 recognise and deal with disease and other problems where appropriate
- P11 set up and maintain appropriate records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 your professional responsibilities and the need to maintain professional competence
- K2 how to assess practices in a scientifically robust manner to determine their suitability, efficacy and welfare implications
- K3 your responsibilities under relevant animal health and welfare, and other animal-related legislation and codes of practice
- K4 your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and company policies
- K5 the importance of maintaining appropriate levels of hygiene and bio-security and how these can be achieved
- K6 the equipment required and how to prepare, use and maintain it in a safe and effective condition
- K7 the need for PPE when dealing with chemicals associated with aquarium set up and maintenance and with potential infection and injury by specimens
- K8 when and how to use different types of aquarium equipment to set up a range of biotopes
- K9 the process of setting up and **factors to consider when setting up an aquarium**
- K10 **the factors to consider when introducing specimens into an aquarium**
- K11 how to identify the main groups of species that are able to cohabit an aquarium and how to identify species combinations that may be incompatible due to trophic interaction, territorial aggression or differing environmental requirements
- K12 how and when to introduce specimens into the aquarium
- K13 biotic and abiotic requirements of a range of specimens and how to provide the conditions required for them to thrive
- K14 how to maintain an aquarium for three months or more
- K15 symptoms and consequences of common diseases in the aquarium and the most appropriate and effective way to deal with problems
- K16 the legal requirements for the disposal of waste, including water from aquariums
- K17 what appropriate records need to be kept and their significance

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### Scope/range

#### Factors to consider when setting up a aquarium:

- 1 equipment
- 2 tank (size, shape, material)
- 3 lighting
- 4 temperature control (cooling and heating)
- 5 substrates
- 6 the nitrogen cycle
- 7 system type (closed, semi-recirculation and open systems)
- 8 filtration
- 9 water conditions (marine and freshwater)
- 10 time required for set up to mature
- 11 specialist set ups

#### Factors to consider when introducing specimens into an aquarium:

- 12 size
- 13 stocking density
- 14 compatibility of species
- 15 quarantine
- 16 sourcing specimens (ethically, legally and sustainably)
- 17 plants/algae
- 18 vertebrates and invertebrates
- 19 behavioural needs of the species and individual specimens
- 20 timescale for introduction of specimens

#### Monitor and maintain an aquarium:

- 21 testing water conditions
- 22 maintaining abiotic water conditions
- 23 cleaning tank, filters and other equipment

#### Monitor and maintain species:

- 24 observing specimen behaviours and condition
- 25 nutrition (including live food culture)
- 26 feeding regimes

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- 27 recognising and dealing with diseases and other problems, including noticing the symptoms of diseases and common problems
- 28 treatment of diseases and other problems
- 29 quarantine and euthanasia

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### Glossary

**Regulations and legislation** – the implications and requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, Zoos licence, Scientific Act, Wildlife and Countryside Act and any others that apply in specific circumstances.

**Current animal welfare legislation:**

- England and Wales, Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Scotland, Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006
- Northern Ireland, Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

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