

Working In Confined Spaces – High Risk

Certificate Aims

This certificate has been designed to allow the candidate to demonstrate the skills and knowledge required by those who need to work in high risk confined spaces as part of their job role. The candidate will be able to follow procedures to enter and exit confined spaces correctly, using appropriate, correctly prepared safety, emergency, and escape equipment. The candidate will be able to correctly use tools and equipment within high risk confined spaces, and correctly respond to an emergency situation whilst within the confined space. The learner must demonstrate a satisfactory level of knowledge and an understanding of high risk confined spaces.

Qualification Structure

The unit is assessed using a written knowledge assessment and a practical skills test, conducted in controlled circumstances.

Course Aim/Learning Outcomes

The aim of this course is to assess learners in a realistic high risk confined space, with an emphasis on learner behaviour, efficiency and safety under practical examination.

The learner must demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of high risk confined space environments and an awareness of the potential dangers these may hold via written assessment and must demonstrate sufficiently skills required within a high risk confined space, as well as preparing for and reacting to an emergency situation in practical examination.

The Outcomes of the course are to sufficiently prepare candidates in;

- Understanding how to prepare to work safely in high risk confined spaces.
- Understanding how to enter and exit high risk confined spaces safely.
- Understanding how to prepare and use safety, emergency, and escape equipment correctly.
- Understanding how to use equipment and tools safely within high risk confined spaces.
- Understanding how to react within an emergency situation within high risk confined spaces.
- Demonstrating theory knowledge in practical environment whilst following safe working practices.

Understanding how to prepare to work safely in high risk confined spaces

Assessment Criteria for this learning outcome – Learner can;

- Understand the responsibilities as an operative in complying with Health and Safety legislation and environmental regulations.
- Recite and explain approved code of practice of working safely in high risk confined spaces.
- Understand and explain how an enclosed space can become a confined space in the presence of a hazard during operations.
- Understand the different types and categories of hazard, and their definitions.
- Understand and recognise how an emergency situation can arise in a high risk confined space.
- Prior to entering the work site, prepare all equipment, and check that all equipment is in satisfactory condition, as well as all electrical equipment fully charged.
- Communicate to personnel to acquire relevant health and safety information for the job at hand.
- Obtain authorisation from personnel for entry into the confined space prior to entry.
- Partake in an on-site risk assessment of the location prior to works.
- Isolate any potential utilities or services that may pose hinderance to the work.
- Set up and confirm operation of monitoring equipment.
- Test communication systems are functioning prior to entry to the confined space.
- Communicate effectively as a team to ensure all members know their role.
- Communicate to confirm all team members are in position prior to entry to the confined space.

Understanding how to enter and exit high risk confined spaces safely

Assessment Criteria for this learning outcome – Learner can;

- Check the atmospheric conditions to ensure that they are within safe parameters.
- Determine if equipment used for access is safe to use.
- Make use of hoists and safety lines as laid out in operation plan.
- Enter a high risk confined space, following procedures set by personnel and laid out in operation plan.
- Exit a high risk confined space, following procedures set by personnel and laid out in operation plan.

Understanding how to prepare and use Safety, Emergency, and Escape equipment correctly

Assessment Criteria for this learning outcome – Learner can;

- Assess the appropriate safety, emergency, and escape equipment to the specifications of the operation.
- Perform safety checks and tests to confirm all safety, emergency, and escape equipment are compliant with manufacturers' specifications and current legislation, and that equipment is fit for personal use, replacing malfunctioning equipment where necessary.

- Appropriately fit and wear any and all Personal Protective Equipment or Respiratory Protective Equipment necessary for the operation, as outlined in the operation plan, in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions and specifications.
- Monitor the condition of the safety, emergency, and escape equipment during operation, and rectify and report any non-conformities within the equipment.
- Perform appropriate checks on safety, emergency, and escape equipment following use, according to manufacturer's guidelines and personnel's instructions.
- Store all safety, emergency, and escape equipment appropriately following successful checks according to personnel's instructions.

Understanding how to use equipment and tools safely within high risk confined spaces

Assessment Criteria for this learning outcome – Learner can;

- Assess suitability of all relevant equipment and tools for the operation prior to use.
- Replace and report any equipment or tools that are malfunctioning or defective prior to use.
- Rectify any issues with equipment during use.
- Follow procedure outlined in the operation plan for equipment and tools to be brought into the high risk confined space.
- Follow procedure outlined in operation plan for equipment and tools to be removed from the high risk confined space.
- Perform appropriate checks on equipment and tools during and following use, according to manufacturer's guidelines and personnel's instructions.
- Store all equipment and tools appropriately following successful checks according to personnel's instructions.

Understanding how to react within an emergency situation within high risk confined spaces

Assessment Criteria for this learning outcome – Learner can;

- Maintain communication with team and personnel via differing methods suitable for the operation.
- Initiate emergency exit procedures immediately following alert to an emergency situation.
- Perform a satisfactory self-evacuation of the high risk confined space.
- Appropriately report the emergency situation and take appropriate record of the situation, including the circumstances.
- Maintain emergency communications with the team and personnel.

Demonstrating theory knowledge in practical environment whilst following safe working practices

Learner will be assessed on the above in a practical setting with the assessor placing a focus on personal safety, immediate response times, effective communication, strong use of safety zones and risk control, and appropriate behaviour whilst in and around the work site.