

Working In Confined Spaces – High Risk (Top Person)

Certificate Aims

This certificate has been designed to allow the candidate to demonstrate the skills and knowledge required by those who need to act as a top person for high risk confined spaces as part of their job role. The candidate will be able to follow procedures to oversee entry and exit of confined spaces correctly. The candidate will be able to correctly monitor and communicate with the team, and correctly respond to an emergency situation whilst overseeing the confined space. The learner must demonstrate a satisfactory level of knowledge and an understanding of high risk confined spaces.

This certificate is specifically designed for those within or undertaking a top person role. This certificate does **not** prove that a learner is competent to enter/exit or work within a high risk confined space.

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 overseeing 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 for overseeing 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 as a top person for a team working in high risk confined spaces.
- Understanding how to oversee entry and exit from high risk confined spaces correctly.
- Understanding how to monitor a team working within high risk confined spaces.
- Understanding how to react within an emergency situation overseeing high risk confined spaces.
- Demonstrating theory knowledge in practical environment whilst following safe working practices.

Understanding how to prepare to work as a top person for a team working 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.
- Interpret the operation plan and arrange appropriate equipment availability.
- Determine required work activities and assign work activities to team members, confirming all members understand their roles.
- Brief the team members on the specifics of the high risk confined space.
- Perform a real-time risk assessment prior to work team entry to the work site.
- Organise and continually preserve a safety zone around the work site.
- Organise and test communications systems are operational prior to work team entry to the high risk confined space.

Understanding how to oversee entry and exit from high risk confined spaces correctly

Assessment Criteria for this learning outcome – Learner can;

- Check the atmospheric conditions to ensure that they are within safe parameters prior to work team entry to the high risk confined space.
- Oversee the work team's entry and exit to the confined space and ensure correct procedures are followed by the work team.
- Oversee the work team's use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) follows procedures.
- Oversee and ensure the correct use of detection and entry equipment.
- Rectify any issues in work team activities if any arise.
- Oversee recovery of equipment and tools from the high risk confined space and work site once the work team is finished.

Understanding how to monitor a team working within high risk confined spaces

Assessment Criteria for this learning outcome – Learner can;

- Apply control to limit access to people and vehicles around the entry point.
- Rectify any issues involving the work or work team, activities, equipment or environmental conditions.
- Ensure constant compliance with procedures.
- Survey environmental conditions regularly and respond effectively to monitoring equipment reads.
- Communicate regularly and effectively with the work team.
- Ensure site is compliant with site hygiene procedure.
- Close down work area once work is finished, ensuring safety.
- Produce necessary reports and documentation, and ensure that these are provided to the designated personnel.

Understanding how to react within an emergency situation overseeing 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.
- Ensure emergency preparations, procedures and communication systems are established, communicated and functional.
- Ensure exclusion zones are established during an emergency situation.
- Oversee rescue equipment deliverance prior to authorisation for entry to high risk confined space to be given.
- Initiate emergency procedures immediately during an emergency situation.
- Supervise and maintain control over the exit procedure during an emergency situation.
- Supervise the use of emergency equipment.
- Enforce and maintain emergency procedures for the duration of an emergency situation.
- Arrange necessary first aid availability promptly after work team exit from a high risk confined space during an emergency situation.
- Record and report the emergency situation and causation.
- Successfully hand-over and brief emergency services.
- Implement and maintain site(s) for post-evacuation investigation.

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, team management and risk control, and appropriate behaviour whilst around the work site.