

Working In Confined Spaces – Medium 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 medium 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 Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE). The candidate will be able to correctly use tools and equipment within medium 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 medium 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 medium-risk confined space, with an emphasis on learner behaviour, efficiency and safety under practical examination.

The learner must demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of medium-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 medium-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 medium risk confined spaces.
- Understanding how to enter and exit medium risk confined spaces safely.
- Understanding how to prepare and use Respiratory Protective Equipment correctly.
- Understanding how to use equipment and tools safely within medium risk confined spaces.
- Understanding how to react within an emergency situation within medium risk confined spaces.
- Demonstrating theory knowledge in practical environment whilst following safe working practices.

Understanding how to prepare to work safely in medium 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 medium-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 medium-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 medium 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 medium-risk confined space, following procedures set by personnel and laid out in operation plan.
- Exit a medium-risk confined space, following procedures set by personnel and laid out in operation plan.

Understanding how to prepare and use Respiratory Protective Equipment correctly

Assessment Criteria for this learning outcome – Learner can;

- Confirm suitability of different types of Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) for the current operation.
- Examine the RPE prior to entry to the work site.
- Replace RPE should the unit be defective and report any issues with RPE to personnel.

- Carry RPE appropriately, adhering to manufacturer's guidelines and operation procedures.
- Use RPE appropriately in response to an emergency situation, adhering to manufacturer's guidelines and operation procedures.
- Perform post-exit checks on RPE, storing appropriately after confirmation of suitability to manufacturer's specifications.

Understanding how to use equipment and tools safely within medium 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.
- Perform checks on all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to determine suitability prior to use.
- Replace and report any equipment or tools that are malfunctioning or defective prior to use.
- Resolve issues with equipment during use.
- Follow procedure outlined in the operation plan for equipment and tools to be brought into the medium-risk confined space.
- Follow procedure outlined in operation plan for equipment and tools to be removed from the medium-risk confined space.
- Perform appropriate checks on equipment and tools 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 medium risk confined spaces

Assessment Criteria for this learning outcome – Learner can;

- Initiate emergency exit procedures immediately following alert to an emergency situation.
- Perform a satisfactory self-evacuation of the medium-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, response times, effective communication, and appropriate behaviour whilst in and around the work site.