
Overview

This unit is about working in confined spaces which have non-standard entries and which, in consequence, makes rescue difficult. It is likely that a hazard will be present at some time during the entry. Entry may involve complex entry procedures and there will be work-specific controls and rescue arrangements. It will entail the use of self-contained open circuit breathing apparatus, specialist detection equipment, and resuscitation equipment. It will require the presence of personnel who have designated responsibilities for dealing with emergencies (see national occupational standards units for overseeing work in confined spaces or emergency rescue and recovery of casualties from confined spaces).

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Prepare to enter and work safely in high risk confined spaces

- P1 prepare and check all equipment is in good order and electrical equipment is fully charged before entering the work site
- P2 obtain authorization for entry and relevant health and safety information from designated personnel
- P3 carry out a real-time risk assessment before starting work
- P4 put in place and confirm isolation of any connecting services
- P5 set up and put monitoring equipment in place
- P6 set up, test, and confirm communications systems are working before moving away from the entry point
- P7 set up and maintain a safety zone around the work site
- P8 confirm all team members know and understand their roles
- P9 check all team members are in place before entry begins Enter and exit confined spaces safely

Enter and exit confined spaces safely

- P10 check atmospheric conditions are safe
- P11 set up and check access equipment is safe
- P12 resolve any problems of work or team members with the designated personnel
- P13 use special hoists and safety lines as set down in procedures
- P14 enter and exit the space in line with procedures for working in high risk confined spaces

Prepare and use self-contained open circuit (SCOC) breathing apparatus in accordance with manufacturers' specifications

- P15 adhere to all procedures regarding the carrying and use of SCOC breathing apparatus
- P16 confirm the suitability of the SCOC breathing apparatus for the job
- P17 carry out pre-use safety and user tests to confirm the SCOC breathing apparatus and its fit comply with current legislation, manufacturers' specifications and approved codes of practice
- P18 examine the SCOC breathing apparatus prior to fitting and starting work
- P19 resolve any problems with the SCOC breathing apparatus and report non-conformities
- P20 fit and adjust the designated SCOC breathing apparatus
- P21 wear the designated SCOC breathing apparatus to carry out
- P22 continuously monitor the SCOC breathing apparatus during operation and use
- P23 carry out after use checks on the SCOC breathing apparatus after a safe exit

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- P24 take steps to maintain or repair faulty SCOC breathing apparatus
- P25 return the SCOC breathing apparatus after use to the supplier or manufacturer for specialist cleaning and restoration
- P26 store SCOC breathing apparatus in designated storage ready for the next job

Use equipment and tools safely and in accordance with manufacturers' instructions

- P27 confirm all equipment and tools are suitable for the job before using them
- P28 confirm all personal protective equipment (PPE) is suitable and compatible with the SCOC breathing apparatus to be worn before using it
- P29 resolve any problems with equipment and tools before and during their use
- P30 use the specified method to introduce equipment and tools into the confined space
- P31 recover and remove equipment and tools when work is finished
- P32 follow manufacturers' and employers' instructions for after- use checks and storage

Follow procedures and work safely

- P33 use different methods of communication which suit the work situation
- P34 control access of people and vehicles around the entry point
- P35 resolve any problems connected to the work with the designated personnel
- P36 follow employers' safe working procedures and equipment manufacturers' instructions
- P37 act immediately to remedy any unsafe activity, equipment, and environmental conditions
- P38 regularly monitor atmospheric conditions within the confined space
- P39 control risks adequately which arise during working
- P40 use PPE specified for the job
- P41 respond to information from monitoring equipment Behaviour which underpins effective performance You work in a manner which: Is vigilant to possible risks and hazards
- P42 communicate regularly with the work team at all stages of the work
- P43 close down and make the work area safe when work is finished
- P44 make reports and complete all documentation and deposit them with the designated people

Deal with emergencies

- P45 start emergency exit procedures immediately a dangerous situation arises
- P46 exit self safely
- P47 follow and maintain emergency procedures throughout the incident

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- P48 record and report the emergency incident and its circumstances
- P49 arrange for basic first aid to be available for recovered surface casualties
- P50 maintain emergency communications

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Additional information

Behaviours

You work in a manner which:

1. is vigilant to risks and hazards

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

General

Confined spaces and their environments

- K1 an appreciation of the main principles of health and safety and environmental legislation and regulations
- K2 working knowledge of approved codes of practice and guidance for working safely in confined spaces
- K3 definition of confined spaces and their nature and characteristics
- K4 definitions of hazardous situations and different types and categories of hazards
- K5 awareness of how emergency situations can arise in a confined space

Equipment and tools

- K6 manufacturers' instructions relating to the use of equipment and tools
- K7 manufacturers' instructions relating to the use of self-contained open circuit breathing apparatus
- K8 legislation and approved codes of practice and guidelines for safe use of breathing apparatus

Working with others

- K9 working as a member of a team

Dealing with emergencies

- K10 roles and responsibilities
- K11 injuries to personnel and the general public
- K12 referring irregularities and abnormal situations
- K13 types and categories of emergency situation

Confined Spaces high risk working environment

Confined spaces and their environments

- K14 classification schemes and how to identify the confined space classification
- K15 hazards, substances, and situations associated with high risk confined spaces
- K16 entry procedures for high risk confined spaces

Working safely

- K17 using work authorizations and permits
- K18 procedures and methods of working suitable to high risk environments and local conditions
- K19 minimizing the risks and hazards for the work to be carried out
- K20 using ventilation systems

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- K21 reducing risk and injury
- K22 understanding and using local site procedures
- K23 monitoring of conditions and work activity
- K24 decontamination procedures
- K25 communications methods which are suitable for use in high risk confined spaces
- K26 resolving problems speedily and with the designated personnel

Equipment and tools

- K27 preparing and checking equipment and tools
- K28 ensuring equipment and tools are fit-for-purpose and how to use them safely
- K29 methods and techniques for using and wearing PPE
- K30 preparing and using self-contained open circuit breathing apparatus

Working with others

- K31 reporting systems for routine work activities and resolving problems

Dealing with emergencies

- K32 procedures for dealing with emergencies
- K33 communications and reporting systems for emergency situations

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