



# Essential guide: our Critical Risk expectations

# Confined space

The word **MUST** means it is a mandatory requirement. Where you see the words **YOUR CALL** it means you are strongly advised to do this, but you can use your judgement.



## Controlled access

A Confined space permit **MUST** be issued prior to work being undertaken in a confined space. The permit **MUST** remain at the entry location during occupancy.

The confined space entry documentation set needs to be completed as a minimum. This includes the:

- Confined Space Entry Certificate
- Risk Assessment (incorporation hazard identification and control measures)
- Atmospheric Condition Card
- Emergency Response Plan
- Sign-on Register
- Closure Statement.

It's **YOUR CALL** on whether you need any of the additional documentation listed below

- Entry Visitor Briefing
- HazID/GSAF
- Initial Atmospheric Test Report
- Method Statement
- JSA
- Hot Work Form
- Selected Persons Report.

A risk assessment **MUST** be conducted prior to undertaking any work activity in confined space.

You **MUST** prevent unauthorised access by placing barriers across entrance ways when the confined space is unattended.

## Atmospheric testing

Atmospheric testing **MUST** be undertaken prior to any confined space entry.

A trained and competent person **MUST** do atmospheric testing and monitoring with a suitably calibrated gas detector to help ensure the safety of those working in the confined space.

Before a person enters a confined space the atmosphere within the confined space **MUST** be determined to have:

- a safe oxygen range – between 19.5% and 23%
- levels of airborne contaminants that may cause impairment, loss of consciousness or asphyxiation that have been reduced to below the relevant exposure levels
- concentrations of flammable airborne contaminants below 5% LEL.

While working in a confined space, the atmosphere **MUST** be continuously monitored for:

- oxygen content
- airborne concentration of flammable contaminants
- airborne concentration of potentially harmful contaminants.



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## Isolate hazards

The confined space work party **MUST** carry out a hazard assessment that considers hazards outside of the confined space. For example, consideration **MUST** be given to fumes from mobile plant and portable generators, adjacent work parties etc.

All potentially hazardous services, including all process services normally connected to that space **MUST**, where possible, be isolated in order to prevent:

- the introduction of any materials, contaminants, agents, or conditions harmful to people within the confined space
- the activation or energising in any way of equipment or services that pose a risk to the health or safety of people within the confined space

Additional hazards introduced into the work environment **MUST** be considered and controlled.

Isolations, where possible, **MUST** be put in place and proven effective to provide safe entry. If isolations are not possible, additional controls **MUST** be considered:

- pipework/spool removal
- a rated blank flange installed to open process pipework
- solid blind/spade installed as close as possible to the confined space
- double block and bleed
- an electrical cell isolation.

## Communication and monitoring

A safety watch **MUST** be assigned to continuously monitor the wellbeing of those inside the confined space and **MUST**:

- be capable of being in continuous communication with those inside the confined space and where possible be able to observe those within the confined space
- be able to initiate the emergency response procedures
- be able to operate and monitor equipment used to ensure safety during entry and work in the confined space
- at no time shall enter the confined space
- ensure that the confined space Sign-on Register is accurately maintained throughout the duration of the work
- complete recording of atmospheric monitoring results on the confined space Atmospheric Condition Card
- ensure that required signage is in place and maintain the integrity of safety equipment and barriers associated with the confined space.
- be aware of any external hazards that may affect the integrity of the confined space
- establish a system of communication with those in the confined space.



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## Training and competency

No-one will enter a confined space unless they can demonstrate they have the required level of training and competency to perform their duties.

All work associated with confined spaces **MUST** be undertaken by trained and competent workers.

Those accessing a confined space **MUST** have the relevant confined space competencies.

The Nominated Supervisor or Nominated Competent Person **MUST** ensure that those entering the confined space are trained appropriately.

Visitor entry **MUST** be strictly controlled in accordance with Contact procedure.

Contact **MUST** check the competencies for overseas contractors to ensure that they hold an appropriate level of training, knowledge, and competency of confined space work.

## Emergency response plan

First aid and rescue procedures **MUST** be considered, discussed and documented as part of planning entry to the confined space.

Workers **MUST** have a method to raise the alarm in an emergency.

It's **YOUR CALL** but consider the use of a tether on confined space entrants so that rescues can be performed from outside the confined space.

Workers **MUST** be trained in the use of rescue and resuscitation equipment.

Where a high risk has been identified it is strongly recommended that appropriately qualified rescue specialists be contracted to provide the:

- Emergency rescue / response plan in consultation with site personnel
- emergency response personnel
- the specialist equipment required.

The confined space entry party **MUST** do a review of the emergency response plan as part of the confined space entry planning process.