

Chapter 3 – Carry Out Confined Spaces Operations



Once all steps have been taken to ensure that the work can be carried out safely you can complete the tasks outlined in the work permit.



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Entering A Confined Space

No person may enter a confined space unless:

1. The risk assessment has been reviewed
2. They have written authority to enter the confined space
3. The written authority includes any risk control measures or precautions necessary (including the number of standby people required) for the safe entry and execution of the work.
4. They are made aware of, understand and comply with the written authority
5. A record of their presence in the confined space is made.
6. Signs and protective barriers are erected to prevent unauthorized access
7. Appropriate and sufficient arrangements have been made for emergency response and rescue of persons in the confined space.



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Entering A Confined Space

Preparations for entry to a confined space should accord with Australian standards and local procedures. All tagging and lockout requirements listed in the work permit must be applied before the confined spaces work may begin.

Open/remove the access cover safely. Make sure any access covers such as doors or hatches cannot fall back down.

Be careful of hazards such as sharp edges or workers slipping and falling down a shaft.



Working In A Confined Space

You should always comply with permit conditions while working in a confined space. If permit conditions and requirements are deviated from the permit may be revoked. Any deviations should be reported and corrected and the permit re-authorised and re-issued by a competent person. Follow all safety procedures while carrying out the confined spaces operations.

Stay in constant effective communication with other personnel including the stand-by person. Use communication equipment correctly. Where necessary you may have to rely on hand signals. Make sure you have worked out these hand signals before entering the confined space to work.

There should be constant monitoring of equipment and changes in the environment while work is being carried out. Damage to equipment, changes in the atmosphere and movement of workers can all create new hazards.



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Working In A Confined Space

New hazards that arise while you are working within a confined space may require you to use new hazard controls and request the re-issue of a permit.

Do not work past the time allowed for the work to be done within the confined space. Keep an eye on the amount of time the work is taking.

If you are using a gas monitor and the alarm sounds all personnel should leave the confined space immediately.

Complete confined space entry logs, ensuring that all entry and re-entry of persons working within the confined space are accurately recorded.



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Changes To Risk Level During Confined Space Operations

If there is a change to the risk level during the confined space operation you will need to take appropriate action depending on the situation. This may include:

- Organising for the re-validation or re-issue of the work permit to reflect the change to the situation
- Evacuating the confined space according to procedures
- Undertaking further testing of the confined space atmosphere and environment
- Raising the alarm with other personnel and isolating the confined space (depending on the circumstances)
- Initiating the emergency/incident response plan and carrying out own role and responsibilities according to procedures
- Any other relevant action as determined by your supervisor



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Emergency Response

It is important to stay calm and focused in a crisis. The quicker and more effectively all personnel can react in an emergency the better the outcome.

Raise the alarm at once if there is an emergency. If all procedures, equipment and personnel are prepared a rescue can be attempted without delay.

It may be necessary for a trained person to apply first aid. Emergency services may need to be telephoned.



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Emergency Response

DIAL 000



***REMEMBER – IN AN EMERGENCY EVERY SECOND CAN
MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH***



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Exiting A Confined Space

Exit the confined space safely and be careful of hazards created by sharp edges or when exiting a confined space at height.

