EUSCS03

Work in high risk confined spaces

Overview

This standard is about working in high risk confined spaces as a member of a work team. A confined space is any place, including any chamber, tank, vat, silo, pit, trench, pipe, sewer, flue, well or other similar space in which, by virtue of its enclosed nature, there arises a reasonably foreseeable specified risk. Risks could lead to serious injury or death through fire, explosion, gas, fumes, vapour, lack of oxygen, rising levels of liquid, asphyxiation or entrapment by free flowing solids.

High risk confined spaces:

- may have non-standard entries which could involve complex entry procedures
- may be in a remote location
- will have specified risks or work activity that are defined as high risk
- may have identified hazards present during entry or while working which cannot be fully controlled

Work in a high risk confined space requires working in line with an agreed system of work that is based on a site-specific or task-specific risk assessment. In addition, high risk confined spaces will require:

- use of safety equipment such as breathing apparatus
- the presence of one or more people, positioned outside the confined space, who have designated responsibilities for controlling the entry and dealing with emergencies.
- the presence of an emergency team who should be available should an emergency occur.

This standard includes preparing to enter and work safely in high risk confined spaces, entering and exiting confined spaces safely, using equipment and tools in accordance with manufacturers' specifications, using safety equipment and following procedures and working safely.

This standard is for anyone from any sector who needs to work in a high risk confined space.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. adhere to current, site-specific risk assessments before starting work
2. set up and test signaling and communication systems before entering confined spaces
3. use communication methods which are suitable for tasks and confined spaces
4. check there are suitable emergency and rescue arrangements in place prior to entry
5. check all equipment and tools are suitable and in good order before entering confined spaces
6. select appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which fits and is in good condition
7. select safety, escape and emergency equipment which is appropriate for the conditions
8. confirm that safety equipment is compatible with self and allocated personal protective equipment (PPE)
9. carry out pre-use checks on safety, escape and emergency equipment prior to starting work and replace when it is defective
10. put on required breathing apparatus and PPE before entering confined spaces
11. fit, adjust, carry, use and remove designated safety, escape and emergency equipment in line with procedures and manufacturers' instructions
12. resolve any problems with safety, escape and emergency equipment and report non-conformities to appropriate people
13. monitor safety, escape and emergency equipment during operation and use
14. obtain authorisation for entry from designated people supervising work
15. set up, test and record results of appropriate monitoring equipment before entering confined spaces
16. check conditions are safe before entering confined spaces
17. maintain safety zones and control access and movement of people and vehicles around entry points in situations where people need to be kept clear
18. obtain, set up and check access equipment that is appropriate for entry and exit
19. use access equipment to enter and exit confined spaces in line with procedures for working in high risk confined spaces
20. use specified methods to introduce equipment and tools into confined spaces

21. resolve any problems with equipment and tools before and during their use
22. resolve any problems connected to entry, exit or work within confined spaces with relevant people
23. follow employers' safe working procedures and equipment manufacturers' instructions
24. monitor conditions and levels of risk within confined spaces on a continuous basis
25. take suitable action to control all risks and to remedy any unsafe activity, equipment and environmental conditions without delay
26. monitor and respond to changes of information from monitoring equipment on an ongoing basis
27. respond to changing conditions without delay
28. use established signaling or communication protocols to initiate emergency plans
29. initiate emergency plans without delay when dangerous situations arise
30. follow and maintain emergency procedures throughout incidents
31. use appropriate escape equipment for the environment as set down in procedures
32. record and report emergency incidents and their circumstances in line with procedures
33. complete all documentation and reports at appropriate times
34. forward documentation and reports to appropriate people without delay
35. ensure equipment and tools are recovered from confined spaces when work is complete
36. close down and make work areas safe when work is finished
37. carry out after use checks and store equipment and tools in line with manufacturers’ instructions
38. carry after use checks on safety, escape and emergency equipment after a safe exit and confirm it conforms to specification before storing it in the designated storage ready for the next job

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the main principles and defining features of current confined spaces, health and safety and environmental legislation and regulations
2. approved codes of practice and guidance for working safely in confined spaces
3. personal duties and responsibilities under legislation
4. definitions of hazardous situations and different types and categories of specified risk
5. types of spaces that could become confined due to the presence of a specified risk
6. hazards, substances, and situations associated with high risk confined spaces including drowning, engulfment, heat, suffocation, fire and explosion
7. how to carry out dynamic risk assessment to review risk, record findings and reduce risk of injury to self, colleagues and the general public
8. awareness of how emergency situations can arise in confined spaces
9. the use and limitations of safety, escape and emergency equipment including breathing apparatus, fall protection equipment and assisted rescue equipment
10. how to carry out pre-use checks of, and recognise defects in, safety, escape and emergency equipment
11. how to fit, put on, wear, use, and remove PPE and escape breathing apparatus and the implications on duration and protection if this is not done correctly
12. manufacturers' instructions relating to the use of safety, escape and emergency equipment including fall protection equipment, assisted rescue equipment, self-contained breathing apparatus and airline including those for body weight and facial hair
13. legislation and approved codes of practice and guidelines for the use of safety equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus
14. your role when working as part of a team and how to maintain safety when working with others
15. roles and responsibilities when dealing with emergencies
16. procedures for dealing with emergencies, incidents and near misses
17. your remit in relation to first aid in emergency situations based on risk assessment
18. confined space classification schemes
19. how to identify high risk confined spaces
20. how to set up and inspect access equipment

21. entry procedures for high risk confined spaces
22. how to assess and review risks and hazards, the hierarchy of control measures and how they can be used to minimise risks to an acceptable level for work to be carried out
23. why it is important to be vigilant to possible risks and hazards and changing conditions,
24. how ventilation systems work and their benefits and disadvantages in confined spaces
25. procedures and methods of working suitable to the confined space classification and local conditions
26. the different types and limitations of monitoring equipment
27. ways to monitor conditions and work activity
28. decontamination procedures
29. why it is important to resolve problems about work in confined spaces without delay
30. how to resolve problems when other people or organisations are involved
31. signaling and communication systems and protocols for keeping in contact with other people while working in high risk confined spaces and in emergency situations
32. how to follow manufacturers' instructions and procedures for preparing, pre and after use inspection and using tools and equipment
33. reporting systems for routine and non-routine work activities, and emergency situations

EUSCS03

Work in high risk confined spaces

Developed by	Energy & Utility Skills
Version Number	2
Date Approved	March 2020
Indicative Review Date	March 2025
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating Organisation	Energy & Utility Skills
Original URN	EUSCS03
Relevant Occupations	Engineering and manufacturing technologies; Construction, planning and the built environment
Suite	Confined Spaces
Keywords	Confined space; high risk; specified risk; entry; exit; safety; access equipment; monitor conditions; emergencies;