



**Australian Government**

# **DEFWHS010 Identify confined space**

**Release: 2**

## DEFWHS010 Identify confined space

### Modification History

Release 2.0. This is the second release of this unit of competency in the DEF Defence Training Package Release 4.0. Modifications have been made to Foundation Skills and Assessment Conditions.

Release 1.0. This unit was released in DEF Defence Training Package release 1.0 and meets the Standards for Training Packages.

This unit supersedes and is equivalent to DEFOH012B Identify confined space.

- Unit code updated
- Content and formatting updated to comply with the new standards
- All PC transitioned from passive to active voice
- PC 2.1 removed.

### Application

This unit involves the skills and knowledge required to identify confined space prior to entering a confined space for work purposes. In the context of this unit, a confined space is any compartment or area that has the capability of accumulating a toxic, flammable or explosive atmosphere, or of being flooded, in addition to one of the following characteristics:

- limited opening for access
- no escape route or very restricted means of escape
- limited natural ventilation
- atmosphere containing more than 23.5% or less than 19.5% oxygen

It includes recognising actual and potential confined spaces in one's work environment and understanding the broad limitations they impose on work practices. It also covers identifying potential work health and safety (WHS) concerns and seeking further advice and/or applying appropriate procedures when dealing with WHS issues.

This unit applies to Defence personnel involved in the identification of confined spaces as a workplace responsibility but is applicable to all individuals who work in this field. Those undertaking this unit would work independently or as part of a team under, indirect supervision. They must be able to use discretion and judgement and take responsibility for the quality of their outputs. They would perform routine tasks in a range of familiar contexts.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

### Pre-requisite Unit

Not applicable.

## Competency Field

Work Health & Safety

## Unit Sector

Not applicable.

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

#### 1 Recognise a confined space

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

**1.1** Select and don required personal protective equipment (PPE) to identify a confined space

**1.2** Review nature of the possible work space and its characteristics

**1.3** Assess possible work space for its potential to be a confined space

**1.4** Determine precautions to be taken in the presence of a harmful atmosphere

**1.5** Identify and assess other hazards and factors associated with the possible work space to determine the level of risk associated with that space

**1.6** Refer identified hazards to appropriate personnel/authority for further investigation and analysis, where uncertainty exists about confined space potential

**1.7** Confirm safety of possible workspace

#### 2 Carry out appropriate action after identifying a confined space

**2.1** Identify and document potential WHS issues

**2.2** Undertake, document and revise risk assessment, whenever there is evidence to indicate that it is no longer valid

**2.3** Document broad limitations the confined space may

impose on work practices

## **Foundation Skills**

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

## **Range of Conditions**

Range is restricted to essential operating conditions and any other variables essential to the work environment.

Non-essential conditions may be found in the Companion Volume Implementation Guide.

## **Unit Mapping Information**

This unit supersedes and is equivalent to DEFOH012B Identify confined space.

## **Links**

Companion Volume Implementation Guides are found on VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=6bdbab1e-11ed-4bc9-9cba-9e1a55d4e4a9>