



**Australian Government**

**Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations**

# **PUADEF0H012B Identify confined space**

**Revision Number: 1**

## PUADEF0H012B Identify confined space

### Modification History

Not applicable.

### Unit Descriptor

#### Unit Descriptor

This unit covers the competency required to identify actual or potential *confined spaces* prior to entering a confined space for work purposes.

The unit 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 occupational health and safety (OH&S) concerns and seeking further advice and/or applying appropriate/relevant procedures when dealing with OH&S issues.

### Application of the Unit

#### Application of the Unit

The application of this unit in the workplace - the environments, complexities and situations involved - will be written during Phase II of the Review of the PUA00 Public Safety Training Package.

This text will be useful for the purposes of job descriptions, recruitment advice or job analysis; where possible, it will not be too job specific to allow other industries to import it into other Training Packages, where feasible.

### Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

## Pre-Requisites

**Prerequisite Unit/s** Nil

## Employability Skills Information

**Employability Skills** This unit contains employability skills.

## Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a Unit of Competency.

Performance Criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the Required Skills and Knowledge and/or the Range Statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the Evidence Guide.

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENT

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

#### 1. Recognise a confined space

- 1.1 *Personal protective equipment* (PPE) required to identify a confined space is donned
- 1.2 *Nature of the possible work space and its characteristics* are reviewed
- 1.3 Possible work space is *assessed for its potential to be a confined space*
- 1.4 *Precautions to be taken in the presence of a harmful atmosphere* are determined in accordance with legislative and organisational requirements
- 1.5 *Other hazards and factors* associated with the possible work space are identified and assessed to determine the level of risk associated with that space
- 1.6 Where uncertainty exists about the possible work space's confined space potential, identification is referred to *appropriate personnel/authority* for further investigation and analysis in accordance with organisational procedures
- 1.7 Safety of possible work space is *confirmed*

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

- 2.1 *Organisational instructions* are reviewed for the appropriate action in relation to work activities involving confined spaces
- 2.2 Potential occupational health and safety (OH&S) issues are identified and documented
- 2.3 Risk assessment is undertaken, documented and revised whenever there is evidence to indicate that it is no longer valid
- 2.4 Broad limitations the confined space may impose on work practices are documented

## Required Skills and Knowledge

### REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level, required for this unit.

#### Required Skills

- access, read, interpret and apply information on confined spaces
- communicate effectively
- identify and report hazards
- implement workplace OH&S procedures relevant to the work being undertaken

#### Required Knowledge

- appropriate signage, symbols, labels and warning devices
- legislation, organisational policies and procedures relevant to confined spaces
- location of applicable organisational procedures and documents
- preferred order of ways to control OH&S risk - hierarchy of controls
- rights and responsibilities of workplace parties under OH&S legislation

## Evidence Guide

### EVIDENCE GUIDE

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## EVIDENCE GUIDE

### **Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit**

Assessment must confirm the ability to observe and respond to changing circumstances and unusual situations in the workplace; to review relevant workplace documentation; to conduct a quality assurance check against previous recommendations; and to identify changes in workplace configurations.

### **Consistency in performance**

Competency should be demonstrated identifying a range of confined spaces that could be expected in the workplace.

### **Context of and specific resources for assessment**

#### **Context of assessment**

Competency should be assessed in the workplace or in a simulated workplace environment.

#### **Specific resources for assessment**

Access to relevant legislation, codes of practice, guidance material, policies/procedures and relevant equipment (including PPE required to identify a confined space).

### **Guidance information for assessment**

Information that will assist or guide assessment will be written during Phase II of the Review of the PUA00 Public Safety Training Package.

## Range Statement

### RANGE STATEMENT

The Range Statement relates to the Unit of Competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. ***Bold italicised*** wording in the Performance Criteria is detailed below.

#### Confined spaces may include

Any compartment or area with limited opening for access either no escape route or very restricted means of escape, and with limited natural ventilation or an atmosphere containing more than 23.5% or less than 19.5% oxygen, and the capability of accumulating a toxic, flammable or explosive atmosphere, or of being flooded

Examples of confined spaces may include:

- fuel tanks (diesoline, gasoline, kerosene, AVCAT) or any other liquid or gaseous fuel
- water tanks (feed, fresh, ballast), void spaces, cofferdams, double bottoms/wing compartments, sewage
- treatment tanks, combined holding tanks (CHT)
- oil tanks (sludge oil, lubricating, hydraulic), cable lockers (anchor cable stowage)
- open-topped spaces such as pits or degreasers, pipes, sewers, shafts, ducts and similar structures
- boiler drums, steam turbine casing, main condensers, gas turbine rotor casing, piston engine enclosed
- crankcase, main circulating water inlet and discharge pipes, pressure vessels

#### Personal protective equipment may include

Breathing apparatus

Gloves

Helmet

Protective clothing

Protective footwear

#### Nature of the possible work space and its characteristics may include

Biological hazards (viruses and bacteria, insects, snakes and vermin)

Characteristics of the environment/atmosphere and its potential impact on equipment or the health of a worker operating in that space

Electrical hazards

## RANGE STATEMENT

<p><b>Assessing a possible work space for its potential to be a confined space may include</b></p>	<p>Environmental hazards</p> <p>Noise</p> <p>Presence of hazardous substances, flammable contaminants</p> <p>Presence of materials which may result in engulfment, mechanical hazards (augers, agitators, conveyors)</p> <p>Ignition hazards (sources of heat, static or friction, non intrinsically safe plant, welding and cutting, electronic equipment, activities such as grinding chipping and sandblasting)</p> <p>Presence of unsafe oxygen levels</p> <p>Radiation</p> <p>Size of entry space, availability of exit route, size of space</p> <p>Structure of the confined space and the limitations such a structure imposes on work practices</p>
	<p>Continuous effective communication</p> <p>Emergency response procedures</p> <p>Hazards involved and associated risks involved with the actual method selected and equipment proposed to be used</p> <p>Nature and inherent hazards of the confined space</p> <p>Range of methods by which the work can be done</p> <p>Work required to be undertaken including the need to enter the confined space</p> <p>Provision of standby person/s where indicated by risk assessment</p> <p>Revising risk assessments whenever there is evidence to indicate that they are no longer valid</p> <p>Training and competence of the persons to undertake the work</p>
<p><b>Precautions to be taken in the presence of a harmful atmosphere may include</b></p>	<p>Appropriate signage warning of the dangers and special precautions to be taken when operating in that environment</p> <p>Climbing equipment or ladders</p> <p>Lifelines</p>



**RANGE STATEMENT**

	<p>Obstructions that limit access to or from areas within the confined space</p> <p>Requirements for special breathing apparatus</p> <p>Restrictions on activities that may be undertaken without specific action such as exhausting volatile gases before welding</p> <p>Special clothing</p> <p>Special equipment/clothing to counter slippery surfaces, protect exposed skin, hearing or sparks</p> <p>Time limit on exposure necessitating rotation of personnel through confined space in order to complete the task that initiated the entry requirement</p>
<b>Other hazards and factors may include</b>	<p>Contaminants encountered such as in the manufacturing process, stored substances and their by-products and/or biological hazards such as bacteria, viruses, fungi</p> <p>Excessive noise or other radiation levels when equipment is operated in the confined space environment or from adjacent activities</p> <p>Falls, trips and slips</p> <p>Inability to observe safe distance from some operating equipments</p> <p>Inadequate lighting</p> <p>Inappropriate manual handling</p> <p>Restrictions on entry and egress which could also severely limit contingency planning</p> <p>Restrictions on gas or electrical welding, use of pneumatic equipment</p> <p>Restrictions on operating equipment in the confined space due to physical restrictions to the normal operation/manoeuvre of the equipment</p>
<b>Appropriate personnel/authority may include</b>	<p>OH&amp;S representative</p> <p>Supervisor</p>
<b>Confirming the safety of a possible work space includes confirming that the work space is either</b>	<p>Confirmed as not safe for work or</p> <p>Confirmed as an actual confined space or</p> <p>Confirmed as a potential confined space and monitored for any change in its status</p>

**RANGE STATEMENT****Organisational instructions  
may include**

Australian or international standards  
Exposure standards  
Job safety analysis (JSA)  
Legislation, including state/territory/commonwealth  
OH&S Acts, regulations, codes of practice and guidance  
material relating to hazards present in the workplace and  
industry, and associated with entry to confined spaces  
including legislation specific to confined space work  
Manufacturers' specifications  
Organisational policies and procedures  
Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs)  
Task analysis

**Unit Sector(s)**

Not applicable.

**Corequisite Unit/s****Co-requisite Unit/s**

Nil