



**Australian Government**

# **DEFOH014B Test confined space environment**

**Release: 2**

## DEFOH014B Test confined space environment

### Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comments
2	DEF12V2	Removal of repetitive Performance Criteria Statement Application added Minor change to Unit Descriptor and Range Statement Changes to Evidence Guide
1	DEF12V1	Primary release.

## Unit Descriptor

This unit covers of the competency required to test the environment of confined spaces to ensure safe entry and egress. This includes the preparation for and conduct of the test procedures and all post test procedures.

In the context of this unit, a confined space is any compartment or area that has 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

and has the capability of accumulating a toxic, flammable or explosive atmosphere, or of being flooded.

No licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. In a Defence context, this means that there is no civilian need to hold this unit in order to meet licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements.

## Application of the Unit

This unit was developed for Defence workers involved in the testing of confined space environments as a workplace responsibility, but is applicable to all individuals who work in this field

Typically, these individuals must demonstrate the ability to 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.

All activities are carried out in accordance with relevant legislation, organisational policies and procedures.

## Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

## Pre-Requisites

Not applicable.

## Employability Skills Information

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. Prepare for environmental testing	<p>1.1 Confined space <i>potential contaminants</i> are identified.</p> <p>1.2 Organisational restrictions or requirements pertinent to the confined space are identified.</p> <p>1.3 <i>Equipment and resources</i> required for the testing are identified, acquired and <i>prepared</i>.</p> <p>1.4 <i>Work health and safety (WHS) requirements</i> are applied throughout the testing procedures.</p>
2. Test confined space for contaminants/ threats	<p>2.1 <i>Testing sample</i> is obtained in accordance with testing protocols.</p> <p>2.2 Tests are conducted and results are <i>recorded</i> in accordance with testing protocols.</p> <p>2.3 <i>Test results</i> are <i>analysed</i> in accordance with testing protocols.</p> <p>2.4 Confined space environment is <i>monitored</i>.</p>
3. Finalise test/s	<p>3.1 <i>Documentation and reports</i> are completed.</p> <p>3.2 Testing equipment is <i>cleaned and refurbished</i>.</p>

## 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 testing
- analyse test results
- communicate effectively
- identify and report on contaminants/threats
- operate test equipment

### Required Knowledge

- analysis procedures
- engineering controls
- legislation, organisational policies and procedures relevant to confined space entry
- operating procedures of relevant test equipment
- principles of atmospheric monitoring
- sampling procedures
- testing protocols



## Evidence Guide

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

Assessment must confirm the ability:

- plan and prepare for testing
- accurately record and analyse test results
- report abnormalities
- maintain records/documentation
- apply knowledge of relevant work health and safety legislative requirements
- apply principles and practices of work health and safety
- identify intervention points for expert advice to assist in work and to guide problem solving

### Consistency in performance

Evidence for competency in this unit must be gathered over time and across a range of workplace or simulated situations.

### Context of and specific resources for assessment

#### Context of assessment

Competency should be assessed in the workplace under conditions that accurately simulate a realistic workplace in accordance with all relevant legislation and organisation requirements.

Evidence should be gathered while observing the individual conducting an actual or simulated confined space environment test. Documented evidence of all relevant reports and tests of the activity should be submitted as evidence for assessment.

#### Specific resources for assessment

Access to the organisational legislation, codes of practice, guidance material, policies/procedures and relevant equipment including PPE required to support testing of confined space environment.

## 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.

<b><i>Potential contaminants</i></b> may	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dusts/fumes/gases/vapours/particles</li> </ul>
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include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazardous substances</li> <li>• Liquids</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Radiation (Ionising or non-ionising)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Equipment and resources</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing equipment as required by SOPs</li> <li>• Testing equipment pertinent to the perceived contaminant/threat</li> </ul>
<b><i>Preparation of equipment and resources</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing equipment for safe operation (confidence testing) prescribed by manufacturer</li> <li>• Testing equipment for serviceability</li> </ul>
<b><i>Work health and safety requirements</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General duty of care under WHS legislation and common law</li> <li>• Provisions relating to health and safety representatives and/or WHS committees</li> <li>• Provisions relating to WHS issue resolution state/territory/commonwealth WHS acts, regulations, codes of practice and guidance material relating to hazards present in workplace and industry</li> </ul>
<b><i>Testing sample</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quantity required to obtain valid result</li> <li>• Sending sample with appropriate paperwork to testing laboratory for specialised tests</li> </ul>
<b><i>Recording test results</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manual or automated recording systems</li> </ul>
<b><i>Analysis of test results</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparison against known standards</li> <li>• Determination of safe levels of contaminants/threats</li> </ul>
<b><i>Monitoring of the confined space environment</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining testing regime while in confined space, be it continuous or periodic, in accordance with entry plan and work permit</li> <li>• Monitoring if determined under risk assessment</li> <li>• Monitoring in response to work being undertaken in the space</li> </ul>
<b><i>Documentation and reports</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing equipment usage reports/logs</li> <li>• Work permit completion after testing</li> <li>• Written reports required by organisation</li> </ul>
<b><i>Cleaning and refurbishing testing equipment</i></b> may include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decontamination procedures</li> <li>• Disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE)</li> <li>• Disposal of test samples</li> <li>• Inspection, servicing and cleaning equipment ready for re-use or storage</li> </ul>



## **Unit Sector(s)**

Not applicable.