Australian Government

MSMPER205 Enter confined space

Release: 1

INDUSTRY SKILLS COUNCILS
Creating Australia's Future

MSMPER205 Enter confined space

Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSAPMPER205C Enter confined space

Application

This unit of competency is required by persons who are required to enter a confined space, as defined by the Australian Standard *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces*, or its authorised update or replacement.

This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required for safe entry to confined spaces under a work permit and for maintaining safety while working in the confined space. The term 'work permit' (or 'permit') includes all written authorities as defined by *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces*. It applies to persons required to enter confined spaces for any purpose, including maintenance, cleaning, inspection or other reasons.

Work in/entry to confined spaces shall conform to relevant legislation and *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces*, or its authorised update or replacement.

AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces defines a confined space as:
'An enclosed or partially enclosed space that is not intended or designed primarily for human occupancy, within which there is a risk of one or more of the following:
(a) An oxygen concentration outside the safe oxygen range.
(b) A concentration of airborne contaminant that may cause impairment, loss of consciousness or asphyxiation.
(c) A concentration of flammable airborne contaminant that may cause injury from fire or explosion.
(d) Engulfment in a stored free-flowing solid or a rising level of liquid that may cause suffocation or drowning.'
Entry to a confined space is defined by *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces* as: 'when a person's head or upper body is within the boundary of the confined space'.

NOTE: Inserting an arm for the purpose of atmospheric testing is not considered as entry to a confined space.'

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

Pre-requisite Unit

MSMPER200 Work in accordance with an issued permit

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Competency Field

Work control systems

Unit Sector

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes		Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element	
1	Assess confined space for entry	1.1	Confirm the purpose of the required entry
		1.2	Check the documented risk assessment associated with the entry to the confined space
		1.3	Identify and assess hazards within/around the confined space
		1.4	Identify hazard controls and check they are functional and appropriate.
		1.5	Check the incident/emergency response plan is appropriate to the job
		1.6	Rehearse own role in an incident/emergency response
		1.7	Confirm and verify that the conditions of the permit reflect the risk assessment
		1.8	Ensure the confined space is ready for entry
2	Use safety equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE)	2.1	Secure the worksite
		2.2	Select, fit and wear designated PPE
		2.3	Select, test and use required instruments and monitors
		2.4	Challenge test atmosphere/atmospheric monitoring instrument if required before entry
		2.5	Confirm test/monitoring results show entry is safe

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3	Work in accordance with confined space requirements	3.1	Enter confined space safely
		3.2	Work in compliance with permit requirements
		3.3	Arrange re-authorisation/reissue of permits as required
		3.4	Complete confined space working documentation
		3.5	Maintain communications with all relevant personnel
		3.6	Monitor atmosphere within the confined space as required by the permit
		3.7	Monitor environment around the confined space for relevant changes
		3.8	Take appropriate action if there is a change in risk/work environment
4	Conclude confined space operations in accordance with procedures	4.1	Recover, clean, service and store equipment
		4.2	Complete required final documentation
		4.3	Report any issues

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance.

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

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Range of Conditions

This field allows for different work environments and conditions that may affect performance. Essential operating conditions that may be present (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) are included.

Regulatory framework

The latest version of all legislation, regulations, industry codes of practice and Australian/international standards, or the version specified by the local regulatory authority, must be used, and include one or more of the following:

- legislative requirements, including work health and safety (WHS)
- industry codes of practice and guidelines
- environmental regulations and guidelines
- Australian and other standards
- licence and certification requirements
- *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces*

All operations to which this unit applies are subject to stringent health, safety and environment (HSE) requirements, which may be imposed through state/territory or federal legislation, and these must not be compromised at any time. Where there is an apparent conflict between performance criteria and HSE requirements, the HSE requirements take precedence.

Procedures

All operations must be performed in accordance with relevant procedures.

Procedures are written, verbal, visual, computer-based or in some other form, and include one or more of the following:

- permit to work system
- emergency procedures
- work instructions
- standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- safe work method statements (SWMS)
- temporary instructions
- any similar instructions provided for the smooth running of the plant

Confined space permit

The confined space permit must meet the requirements of *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces*, its authorised replacement or other

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appropriate standard.

Conditions of the permit include:

- hazard controls
- PPE
- instruments and monitors to be used
- re-authorisation/reissue requirements
- other specifications for the work

Ready for entry

Checking the confined space is ready for entry includes checking:

- isolations are complete and appropriate
- isolation complies with regulations, standards and procedures
- atmosphere is safe (or if necessary relevant measures are in place to ensure safe entry into an unsafe atmosphere)
- safe entry and exit methods are in place
- other items to ensure compliance with procedures, permits, relevant legislation and *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces*.

Where the confined space is not ready for entry appropriate steps must be taken, including reporting deficiencies and/or refusing to enter the space.

Secure worksite

Securing the worksite includes selecting and erecting/deploying one or more of the following:

- signs
- barriers
- other requirements as defined in the confined space entry permit requirements, *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces* and other relevant requirements

Tools and equipment

Tools and equipment include one or more of the following:

- instruments and monitors:
- instruments used for pre-entry testing appropriate to the hazards
- continuous monitors appropriate for the hazards
- other devices used to test the confined space atmosphere
- PPE, such as:
  - eye protection

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- ear protection
- gloves
- clothing
- respiratory protection
- helmets
- safety footwear
- lifelines and harnesses
- personal monitors and alarms
- other relevant PPE

- communication equipment
- voice/visual contact
- lifeline communication
- radio communication
- other relevant communication aids

Re-authorisation/reissue of permits

Requirements for re-authorisation/reissue of permits are required by one or more of the following situations:

- there is any change to work scope or method
- the work situation/workplace conditions changes
- there are deviations from permit conditions
- there is a gap in work continuity
- other site rules require it

Working documentation

Working documentation includes one or more of the following:

- entry/exit/re-entry logs
- other documentation required by *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces* (e.g. Section 2.9)
- other documentation required by the permit
- other documentation required by the site

Appropriate action if there is a change in risk

Where there is a change in risk/work environment appropriate action includes one or more of the following:

- seeking revalidation of the permit
- evacuating the confined space
- instigating/undertaking testing
- raising the alarm
- initiating the emergency/incident response plan
- other relevant action defined in permit conditions or site procedures

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Final documentation

Final documentation includes one or more of the following:

- signing-off of permit
- documentation related to equipment used
- other required records

Reporting of issues

Reporting of issues includes:

- feedback about the work and methods of improving the work process
- signs and symptoms of operational stress
- equipment malfunctions
- wear and tear of equipment and tools
- condition of safety/rescue equipment
- observations about the condition of the confined space
- other issues that might arise

Hazards

Hazards include one or more of the following:

- heat, smoke, dust or other atmospheric hazards
- sharp edges, protrusions or obstructions
- limited head spaces or overhangs
- equipment or product mass
- slippery surfaces, spills or leaks
- noise, rotational equipment or vibration
- high/low oxygen content
- hazardous atmospheres (e.g. combustible and toxic)
- entrapment
- engulfment
- heat stress
- claustrophobia
- external hazards that may impact on the safety of those working in the confined space (e.g. exhaust fume or other hazardous vapours being drawn into the confined space by ventilation fans)
- other hazards as identified in *AS 2865-2009 Confined spaces*
- electricity
- gases and liquids under pressure
- structural hazards/collapse
- equipment failures

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- industrial (machinery, equipment and product)
- equipment or product mass
- working where there is a reasonable risk of a fall
- flammability and explosivity
- unauthorised personnel
- extreme weather
- other hazards that might arise

Unit Mapping Information

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Links

MSA Training Package Implementation Guides - http://companion_volumes.vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingPackage.aspx?pid=29

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