



Australian Government

RIIWHS202 Enter and work in confined spaces

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit of competency was first released in RII Resources and Infrastructure Industry Training Package Release 11.0.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to enter and work in confined spaces in the resources and infrastructure industries.

It applies to those working in operational roles who generally work under supervision to complete a range of functions involving known routines and procedures and take responsibility for the quality of work outcomes.

Note: A 'confined space' is defined in accordance with Safe Work Australia regulations as follows:

confined space means an enclosed or partially enclosed space that:

- a. *is not designed or intended primarily to be occupied by a person; and*
- b. *is, or is designed or intended to be, at normal atmospheric pressure while any person is in the space; and*
- c. *is or is likely to be a risk to health and safety from:*
 - i. *an atmosphere that does not have a safe oxygen level; or*
 - ii. *contaminants, including airborne gases, vapours and dusts, that may cause injury from fire or explosion; or*
 - iii. *harmful concentrations of any airborne contaminants; or*
 - iv. *engulfment,*

but does not include a mine shaft or the workings of a mine.

Note: The terms Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and Work Health and Safety (WHS) are equivalent and generally either can be used in the workplace. In jurisdictions where the National Model WHS Legislation has not been implemented RTOs are advised to contextualise the unit of competency by referring to the existing State/Territory OHS legislative requirements.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

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

Pre-requisite unit(s)

No pre-requisite units

Competency field(s)

N/A

Unit sector(s)

N/A

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Required knowledge, skills and application should be considered and clearly articulated.</i>
1. Plan and prepare for working in confined space	1.1 Obtain relevant confined space permit (permit) and/or safe work method statement (SWMS) or their equivalents, as per legislative and worksite requirements 1.2 Confirm task requirements with site personnel in accordance with worksite instructions 1.3 Verify control measures are in place in accordance with those prescribed in the permit and/or SWMS (or their equivalents) 1.4 Identify and address potential risks and hazards not described in the permit and/or SWMS in accordance with WHS requirements 1.5 Wear designated personal protective equipment (PPE) prescribed in site signage, confined space permit and/or SWMS (or their equivalents) after checking its serviceability 1.6 Set up exclusion zone using signage and barriers to prevent unauthorised entry in accordance with the permit/SWMS (or their equivalents) 1.7 Confirm incident/emergency response plan is appropriate to the task and personnel involved in the task are prepared for accidents and emergencies in accordance with WHS requirements 1.8 Verify that instruments, equipment and monitoring devices are calibrated and within service date in accordance with manufacturer and worksite requirements

	1.9 Place rescue equipment and permit near entry of confined space without inhibiting access/egress in accordance with the permit/SWMS (or their equivalents) 1.10 Establish method of continuous communication with stand-by person in accordance with WHS requirements
2. Work in confined space	2.1 Confirm that the confined space is properly ventilated in accordance with the permit/SWMS (or their equivalents) 2.2 Test the atmosphere for harmful elements before entering in accordance with worksite instructions 2.3 Isolate all energy sources and hazardous services linked to the confined space in accordance with WHS requirements and worksite instructions 2.4 Complete confined space work in accordance with the requirements of the permit/SWMS (or their equivalents) 2.5 Monitor the atmosphere in accordance with the requirements of the permit/SWMS (or their equivalents) 2.6 Respond immediately to any changes in risk or work environment in accordance with WHS and worksite requirements 2.7 Maintain continuous communication with the stand-by person and relevant personnel in accordance with WHS and worksite requirements 2.8 Adhere with entry time limits in accordance with the requirements of the permit/SWMS (or their equivalents)
3. Exit confined space	3.1 Exit confined space in accordance with the requirements of the permit and/or SWMS (or their equivalents) 3.2 Recover clean, service, and store instruments and monitoring devices in accordance with manufacturer and worksite requirements 3.3 Remove tags and locks in accordance with the requirements of the permit and/or SWMS (or their equivalents) and/or site requirements 3.4 Complete exit requirements in accordance with the specified requirements of the permit and/or SWMS (or their equivalents)
4. Safely secure and clean up confined space work area	4.1 Ensure reinstatement and security of site/entry point in accordance with WHS and worksite requirements 4.2 Clear work area on completion of work task in accordance with WHS and worksite requirements 4.3 Remove, clean and store barriers and signs in accordance with WHS and worksite requirements

	4.4 Complete all sections of the confined space entry permit (or its equivalent) relevant to work role and responsibility in accordance with WHS and worksite requirements
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Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for RIIWHS202 Enter and work in confined spaces

Performance Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate the ability to complete the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit, on at least **two** occasions, including:

- obtaining the required entry permit and instructions for performing work in confined spaces
- assessing together with other affected workers the effectiveness of the emergency response plan
- undertaking all checks and preparation as per permit and/or safe work method statement (SWMS) (or their equivalent) requirements
- isolating (group or personal), de-energising, lockout and tagout all energy sources
- wearing and caring for designated personal protective equipment (PPE)
- using atmospheric monitoring devices before entering the confined space
- entering the confined space
- working in a confined space
- using atmospheric monitoring devices during confined space activity
- communicating with stand-by person and others while working in a confined space
- exiting the confined space
- removing locks and tags from isolation devices.

In the course of the above work the candidate must also:

- undertake a risk assessment
- apply relevant hazard controls and complete all checks and preparations in accordance with the confined space permit, SWMS (or their equivalents) and/or site procedures
- verify that hazard controls are in place and operational
- confirm the permit conditions reflects risk assessment and confined space is ready for entry
- enter the confined space and carry out actions specified in the permit/SWMS including all safety procedures
- monitor the conditions of work under the permit
- interpret and respond to gas test/monitoring results
- initiate incident/emergency response plan
- work effectively with others to enter and work in confined spaces in a way that meets all required outcomes

- communicate clearly and concisely with others to receive and clarify work instructions and to determine coordination requirements prior to commencing and during work activities.

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must be able to demonstrate knowledge to complete the tasks outlined in the elements, performance criteria and foundation skills of this unit, including knowledge of:

- key regulations and compliance codes or codes of practice relevant to enter and work in confined spaces
- key policies, procedures and documentation required to enter and work in confined spaces, including:
 - entry and exit procedures, risks and regulations
 - safe work method statements (SWMS), permits and confirmation of training per compliance requirements
 - site and equipment safety requirements
 - site isolation and site control responsibilities and authorities
 - safety data sheets (SDS)
 - incidents and emergency response documentation
- principles and techniques for identifying and responding to:
 - areas that constitute confined spaces
 - types of air contaminants and toxic gases
 - limitations of breathing apparatus
 - relevant hazards and appropriate risk controls
- characteristics, technical capabilities and limitations of instruments and monitoring devices
- techniques for coordinating and communicating job activities with others.

Assessment Conditions

Mandatory conditions for assessment of this unit are stipulated below. The assessment must:

- include access to:
 - personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - equipment related to entering and working in confined spaces
 - relevant documentation
- be conducted in a safe environment; and,
- be assessed in context of this sector's work environment; and,

- be assessed in compliance with relevant legislation/regulation and using policies, procedures, processes and operational manuals directly related to the industry sector for which it is being assessed; and,
- confirm consistent performance can be applied in a range of relevant worksite circumstances.

Assessor Requirements

In addition to the requirements in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards, assessors and industry experts must also have a minimum of two (2) years industry experience, directly relevant to the training and assessment being provided.

Mandatory Workplace Requirements

Assessment of performance evidence may be in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.

Unit Mapping Information

Previous Code and Title	Equivalence	Comments
RIIWHS202E Enter and work in confined spaces	Equivalent	Supersedes and is equivalent.

Links

Companion volumes, including implementation guides, are found on the national training register - <https://training.gov.au/training/details/RII>.