



Australian Government

RIIWHS401D Supervise work in confined spaces

Release: 3

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Modification History

Release	Comment
1	The unit replaces RIIOHS401A Supervise work in confined spaces.
2	Editorial corrections. Amended Application field.
3	Required frequency and volume of evidence amended in Performance evidence. Substantial amendments made in Assessment Conditions field, including: references to Industry Sectors, assessor and subject matter expert experience requirements, how assessment should be conducted and what it should confirm.

Application

This unit describes a participant's skills and knowledge required to supervise work in confined spaces in the Resources and Infrastructure Industries.

This unit is appropriate for those working in supervisory or technical specialist roles.

Licensing, legislative, regulatory and certification requirements that apply to this unit can vary between states, territories, and Industry sectors. Relevant information must be sourced prior to application of the unit.

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.

Elements and Performance Criteria

1 Prepare for work in the confined space	1.1 Access, interpret and apply confined space documentation and requirements and ensure the work activity is compliant 1.2 Access and interpret the site confined spaces safety management program 1.3 Determine tasks and develop a written Safe Operating Procedures for work to be carried out 1.4 Identify and implement communications system and equipment
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	1.5 Select and wear personal protective equipment 1.6 Identify and obtain resources for implementation of the confined spaces safety management program 1.7 Prepare all required Permits
2 Provide information about working in confined spaces	2.1 Establish effective consultation mechanisms with all levels of the workforce 2.2 Consult with employees and employee representatives on implementation of the confined spaces safety management program 2.3 Identify and meet the communication needs of special groups 2.4 Provide information, instruction, training and supervision to employees
3 Ensure safety and health of others entering and working in a confined space	3.1 Identify relevant personnel or expertise for risk assessment, and initiate hazard identification and risk assessment process 3.2 Identify and prepare a written record of hazards 3.3 Assess risks and determine probability and likelihood 3.4 Identify and implement effective control measures according to the Hierarchy of Controls 3.5 Develop a confined space checklist for the Confined Space Entry Permit 3.6 Ensure atmospheric monitoring instruments available, installed, calibrated and used correctly 3.7 Keep written records of hazard and risk assessment processes and outcomes, and the controls put in place
4 Supervise entry and work in a confined space	4.1 Allocate resources to confined space personnel for effective, safe performance of designated work 4.2 Ensure all personnel read, understand and sign all required permits 4.3 Clearly and concisely communicate the work activities to personnel, clarify any questions, and ensure all personnel are clear on their work activities and responsibilities 4.4 Brief and post confined space observers and sentries 4.5 Check that required personal protective equipment is suitable and worn correctly 4.6 Ensure communications systems are installed, maintained and in working order 4.7 Monitor and evaluate the continued effectiveness of risk assessment processes and controls

	4.8 Test and maintain controls
	4.9 Ensure work activities complies to procedures
5 Implement confined space emergency and rescue systems	5.1 Select emergency rescue equipment appropriate for the confined space activities 5.2 Identify and liaise with external Emergency Services agencies 5.3 Implement site approved emergency procedures 5.4 Ensure personnel are trained in emergency procedures 5.5 Keep and maintain emergency procedure training records
6 Withdraw from confined space and facilitate return to service	6.1 Ensure that work is completed to site requirements and all work-related materials and equipment removed 6.2 Ensure all Permits are cleared and systems isolation devices removed 6.3 Ensure all personnel sign off the Confined Space Entry Permit 6.4 Advise appropriate personnel that the confined space is clear for return to service 6.5 Review the confined space safety management program

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit. Further information is available in the Resources and Infrastructure Industry Training Package Companion Volume.

Unit Mapping Information

RIIOHS401A Supervise work in confined spaces

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=88a61002-9a21-4386-aaf8-69c76e675272>

Assessment Requirements for RIIWHS401D Supervise work in confined spaces

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Performance Evidence

Evidence is required to be collected that demonstrates a candidate's competency in this unit. Evidence must be relevant to the roles within this sector's work operations and satisfy all of the requirements of the performance criteria of this unit and include evidence that the candidate:

- locates and applies relevant legislation, documentation, policies and procedures
- demonstrates completion of supervising work in confined spaces that safely, effectively and efficiently meets all of the required outcomes on more than one (1) occasion including:
 - performing task analysis to carry out risk assessment, and prepare for emergency procedures
 - preparing a written safe operating procedure and checklist for confined space work activities
 - preparing required permits prior to work activity
 - determining working at height requirements and applies procedures for working at heights
 - sources and allocates required resources for confined space activities
 - providing clear instruction and coordination of activity throughout working in confined space activity
 - establishing and applying effective communication techniques to others throughout the work activity
 - applying atmospheric contaminants measurement procedures
 - supervising work activities and corrects work activity when required

- training others to carry out first response first aid and fire fighting techniques
- maintaining written training records
- maintaining written record of hazards, risk assessments, outcomes and controls used

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of supervising work in confined spaces through:

- applying legislation, standards and code of practice as they apply to confined spaces
- defining confined space
- performing the process of hazard identification, risk assessment and control
- applying workplace strategies for implementing confined space legislation
- determining the effects of atmospheric contaminants entering the respiratory system
- knowledge of the effects on the human body such as:
 - oxygen deficiency
 - toxic contaminants
 - combustible contaminants
 - physical hazards such as engulfment and entrapment
 - physiological conditions such as asthma, epilepsy, phobias and physical fitness
 - risks to workers handling hazardous substances in confined spaces
 - risks from electric shock, explosion or fire, temperature changes, noise, and trips, slips and falls
- establishing control measures
- using methods of systems isolation
- preparing written Safe Operating Procedures
- examination, testing and maintenance of control measures
- implementation of emergency rescue procedures
- selection, use, training and maintenance of safety and rescue equipment
- using communication and observer systems
- maintaining record keeping requirements

Assessment Conditions

- An assessor of this unit must satisfy the requirements of the NVR/AQTF or their successors; and Industry regulations for certification and licensing; and,
- this unit is best assessed in the context of this sector's work environment;
- where personal safety or environmental damage are limiting factors, assessment may occur in a simulated environment provided it is realistic and sufficiently rigorous to cover all aspects of this sector's workplace performance, including environment, task skills, task management skills, contingency management skills and job role environment skills; and,
- this unit must 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,

- assessment may be conducted in conjunction with the assessment of other Units of Competency; and,
- assessment must confirm consistent performance can be applied in a range of relevant workplace circumstances; and,
- assessors must demonstrate the performance evidence, and knowledge evidence as outlined in this Unit of Competency, and through the minimum years of current* work experience specified below in an Industry sector relevant to the outcomes of the unit; or,
- where the assessor does not meet experience requirements a co-assessment or partnership arrangement must exist between the qualified assessor and an Industry subject matter expert. The Industry subject matter expert should hold the unit being assessed (or an equivalent unit) and/or demonstrate equivalence of skills and knowledge at the unit level. An Industry technical expert must also demonstrate skills and knowledge from the minimum years of current work experience specified below in the Industry sector, including time spent in roles related to the unit being assessed; and,
- assessor and Industry subject matter expert requirements differ depending on the Australian Qualifications Framework Level (AQF) of the qualification being assessed and/or Industry Sector as follows:

Industry sector	AQF** Level	Required assessor or Industry subject matter expert experience
Drilling, Metalliferous Mining, Coal Mining, Extractive (Quarrying) and Civil Construction	1	1 Year
	2	2 Years
Drilling, Coal Mining and Extractive (Quarrying)	3-6	3 Years
Metalliferous Mining and Civil Construction	3-6	5 Years
Other sectors	Where this Unit is being assessed outside of the Resources and Infrastructure Sectors assessor and/or Industry subject matter expert experience should be in-line with industry standards for the sector in which it is being assessed and where no Industry standard is specified should comply with any relevant regulation.	

*Assessors can demonstrate current work experience through employment within Industry in a role relevant to the outcomes of the Unit; or, for external assessors this can be demonstrated through exposure to Industry by conducting frequent site assessments across various locations.

**Where a unit is being delivered outside of a Qualification the first numeric character in the Unit code should be considered to indicate the AQF level

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