



National  
Operational  
Guidance

## Control measure

**Confined space: Health and safety  
considerations**



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

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## Control measure - Confined space: Health and safety considerations

### TRAINING SPECIFICATION

#### Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element	Learning outcome
Selection and use of suitable equipment	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for equipment to be appropriate to the environment, especially if there is an explosive atmosphere</li> <li>• The need to appropriately select and secure equipment when it is being used in a confined space</li> </ul>
Personal protective equipment and respiratory protective equipment	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the PPE and RPE used in confined spaces takes into account:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited space and movement</li> <li>- High temperatures</li> <li>- The potential need for emergency evacuation of responders</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Access and egress	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to identify and monitor access and egress routes</li> <li>• The need to identify alternative routes and when they may need to be used</li> <li>• The importance of maintaining the access and egress routes</li> <li>• Why it may be necessary to increase the size of openings to, or in, confined spaces</li> <li>• The benefits of appointing a confined space supervisor</li> </ul>



**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Lighting	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for lighting equipment to be appropriate to the environment, especially if there is an explosive atmosphere</li> </ul>
Be aware of electrostatic build-up	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What causes electrostatic build-up</li> <li>• What hazards are presented by electrostatic build-up</li> </ul>
Establish arrangements to deal with firefighter emergencies	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legislative requirements for establishing arrangements to deal with firefighter emergencies</li> <li>• The need for recovery systems</li> </ul>
Limiting working time	Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why there may be a need to limit the time period that personnel are allowed to work in a confined space</li> </ul>

**Practical application**

**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Incident commanders must: Establish and maintain a recovery system for personnel deployed into confined space environments	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there is a recovery system in place for all personnel entering the confined space hazard area</li> </ul>
Incident commanders must: Ensure that emergency arrangements are maintained and resourced for the duration that personnel are committed to confined spaces	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure there are suitable and sufficient arrangements for the rescue of personnel from the confined space in an emergency</li> </ul>
Use only ATEX approved equipment in confined spaces if there is a risk of an explosive atmosphere	Demonstrate the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure only ATEX approved equipment is used in a confined space, if there is the risk of an explosive atmosphere</li> </ul>



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**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Appropriately select and secure equipment used in a confined space to prevent it causing harm

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Ensure equipment is appropriately selected and secured when it is being used in a confined space

Identify the appropriate PPE and RPE for confined space work

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Ensure personnel use appropriate PPE and RPE when working in a confined space

Ensure that access and egress is appropriate for the operations being undertaken within the confined space and include contingencies for restricted access and egress

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and monitor access and egress routes
- Identify alternative routes to be used in the event of the original access and egress presenting intolerable risks or becoming unsuitable during the incident
- Maintain the access and egress route so that all personnel working in the confined space are able to withdraw as quickly as possible if required
- Consider increasing the size of openings to, or in, confined spaces if they are not sufficient
- Use a confined space supervisor to provide updates on hazards and operational requirements

Ensure that lighting equipment being used in a confined space is appropriate to the environment and hazards present

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Ensure any lighting equipment used in a confined space is appropriate to the environment

Consider seeking advice from specialist rescue teams, confined space supervisors or on-site staff about the hazard of electrostatic build-up

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Consider the presence of and seek advice on the hazard of electrostatic build-up



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**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Eliminate or isolate sources of ignition if there is a risk of flammable gases in or near to a confined space

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Control the impact of sources of ignition through the use of cordons
- Ensure smoking and vaping are not allowed in or near to a confined space

Account for extended times in the incident plan due to difficulties operating in a confined space

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Factor extended travel and access times into the incident plan

Consider limiting the time personnel can be committed to working in a confined space

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Control the duration time for working in a confined space