

EUIAS Centre Approval Requirements for the EUIAS Confined Spaces qualifications

General Requirements:

Centres must ensure that they have the following general resource / equipment requirements in place for all Confined Space qualifications:

- Adequate storage facilities for all equipment
- Inspection and maintenance staff (able to cover PPE and Work Equipment)
- Facilities for storing 'quarantined' equipment that cannot be used for assessment activity or confined space work
- Changing facilities and secure storage for learners' personal belongings
- Assessment briefing room(s) for up to 10 learners
- Showers and toilets for both sexes, near to the assessment location

Requirements for the delivery of the Practical Observation:

1. Practical assessments

The space used for practical assessments must be of a suitable size for the task being observed. There must be sufficient opportunity to observe all assessment criteria, including where this involves working with other individuals and/or equipment.

2. PPE

Personal protective equipment and other safety items required for the practical assessment must be made available for all learners undertaking the assessment. All equipment used must meet the current EN specifications and/ or safety requirements referenced in relevant statutes, regulations or approved codes of practice.

3. Learner provided equipment

Learners must be made aware, in advance of the assessment that they must bring

- Coveralls (or suitable workwear)
- Safety hat
- Gloves
- Safety Footwear, (appropriate for confined space working).

All items provided by learners or their employers must be inspected prior to assessment to ensure they are industry approved, fit for purpose and safe to use.

Where learners present themselves for assessment with equipment that does not meet the required standards, the centre must ensure that the correct equipment is made available and used for the assessment. The centre may refuse to allow the learner to use equipment that does not meet the required standard.

The centre must have a hygiene routine in place to ensure that equipment fit for purpose and safe to use for each learner who uses it.

4. Centre provided equipment

(a) Warning barriers and warning signs –

These should cover signing, lighting, guarding, cordons and barriers.

They must meet the requirements within the NRSWA legislation, and must be sufficient to protect members of the public and learners from risks involved in the assessment exercise.

(b) Portable gas monitoring equipment –

A selection of monitors must be available for learners to use.

The monitors should reflect the gas monitoring equipment currently used in confined spaces work, complete with current calibration certificates. The monitors should cover O₂ - CH₄ - H₂S—CO as a minimum.

(c) Hand lamps, torches and head torches –

Lamps and torches must be certificated where required, and must meet the current legislation and standards applicable for potentially explosive environments.

Centres should maintain an inventory of spare bulbs, batteries, and charging units.

(d) Equipment Register –

The centre must maintain a documented history of the equipment used in assessments. The information must cover all safety certificates, initial testing, re-testing and re-calibration, maintenance carried out on equipment, and any failure of equipment and related repairs.

Where testing and calibration information is unavailable, the equipment must be quarantined so that it is not used during assessments.

(e) First Aid

The centre must provide static and portable first aid kits to meet the Code of Practice and First Aid at Work Regulations requirement.

The team conducting confined space assessments must have access to a trained first aider.

(f) Manhole cover lifting devices –

These may include a selection of long and short handle manual lift keys; long handled lever types on castors; or hydraulic lifters.

(g) Ropes –

The centre should have a selection of ropes for use in handling tools, gas monitors and other equipment. Ropes should be of a braided construction, to prevent spinning, and should be of a 6-8mm diameter as a minimum.

Equipment requirements for working in medium risk confined spaces:

The centre must ensure that the following equipment is available for use in assessments in working in medium risk confined spaces:

1. Harness and fall arrest systems,

A minimum of full-body harness EN361 EN 1497 with safety certification will be required for each learner. Energy absorbers with safety certification will be required.

The types selected should reflect equipment that is commonly used in the workplace or that learners use in their workplace.

2. Access Equipment

A tripod or Davit system will be required, suitable for the learners' access requirements.

A fall arrest block with a retrieval system or safety winch incorporating overrun protection and fall protection, with safety certification.

Any fall arrest block or winch used during the practical assessment should have the lifting capacity and length capacity for the intended shaft or access hole. If a fully suspended descent is to be undertaken, the rescue lifeline must be in addition to the man-riding system.

3. Respiratory Protective Equipment

(RPE): Self-contained compressed air positive pressure escape breathing apparatus of 10 or 15 minutes' expected duration. This should cover both face masks and hooded sets.

The centre will require spare cylinders to maintain training exercises.

Self-contained closed-circuit chemical re-breather training sets must also be available. Facilities for the disinfecting and maintenance of these breathing apparatus will be required.

4. Communications

Centres will require, Tannoys, whistles, air horns and intrinsically safe radios.

Additional Equipment Requirements for Working in High Risk:

In addition to the equipment required above for Working in Medium Risk Confined Spaces, the centre must ensure that the following equipment is available for use in assessments in working in high risk confined spaces:

- Self-contained breathing apparatus utilising 200 or 300 bar cylinders. The centre must have spare cylinders available to maintain training exercises.
- An airline breathing apparatus trolley or trailer system for demonstration and use, specific to the learner's industry requirements.

Isolations

For isolation, lockout/tagout (LOTO), a selection of chains, identity tags, and padlocks will be used. Tags should be numbered and capable of holding multiple padlocks..

Air movers, ventilation equipment:

Mechanical ventilation systems will be used as a control measure.

The equipment must have a 'safe' power source (i.e., it must comply with electrical equipment standards for potentially explosive atmospheres).

If powered by an internal combustion engine, it must be outside the confined space, and its exhaust must lead away to a safe emission point).

The facility-to-earth bond ventilation equipment may cause static electricity to discharge via a spark.

Summary of the full list of equipment required for medium and high risk, with entry control:

Airline or trolley-set compressed air breathing apparatus with spare cylinders.

- Twin Cylinder Trolley

- Trailers

Barriers, road signs etc as appropriate. NRSWA

BA Control Board/ Tally Board

Chemical-resistant suits, gloves, eye protection and hearing protection

Communication systems (Simplex – Duplex),

- Radios,
- Klaxon
- Mobiles,
- Whistles,
- Air horns.

Escape BA sets

- Positive Pressure Full face
- Positive Pressure Hooded
- Chemical Rebreather
- Dust Masks
- Powered respirators

Fall Arrest/ Rescue System

- EN360
- EN1496

First Aid kit

- AED
- M.A.R.S
- O2

Flame/spark-proof tools and equipment

Gas monitors 4-1

- Hydrogen sulphide H₂S
- Carbon Monoxide CO
- Oxygen O₂
- Methane CH₄

Other Common Gases for Monitors:

- Carbon Dioxide CO₂
- Chlorine CL₂
- Ammonia NH₃
- Sulphur Dioxide SO₂
- Nitrogen Oxide NO
- Nitrogen Dioxide NO₂

Hand line for lowering detector, tools, etc.

Harness

- EN361
- EN358
- EN813
- EN1497

Lifting/ Rescue Equipment

- EN341 Descender Devices for use in Rescue
- EN353- 1/2 Guided Fall Arrestors that include Rigid Anchor Lines
- EN354 Lanyards
- EN355 Energy Absorbers
- EN358 Work Positioning, Restraints and Positioning Lanyards
- EN362 Connectors
- EN363 Personal Fall Protection Systems
- EN795 Anchor Devices

Life jacket (Where necessary)

Lighting (Intrinsically Safe)

- Head torch
- ELV lamps/ lighting

Locking off electrical/mechanical equipment - LOTO

Mechanical lifting device for vertical entries

- Personnel Winch

Monitoring documents –

- Gas readings,
- Entry/ exit times

- Incident logs
- Equipment Logs
- Pressure gauge readings
- POWRA
- Near miss
- RIDDOR
- Method Statement
- Risk assessment
 - Generic
 - Site Specific
 - Point of Work
 - Dynamic

Personal Protective Equipment

- Overalls
- Safety helmets
- Footwear
- Gloves
- Gauntlets
- Eye protection

Ropes/ Line

TRIPOD/ DAVIT Arms

Ventilation systems Forced/ Extract Air movers

Working/rescue BA sets to address the rescue arrangements (minimum of 2 sets)