



HUMBERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

# HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

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## CONFINED SPACE

<b>Owner</b>	<b>Director of Service Improvement</b>
<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Head of Health &amp; Safety</b>
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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

A confined space is described as any place including a chamber, tank, vat, silo, pit, trench, flue, well or other similar place which is substantially (but not always) enclosed resulting in certain foreseeable specified risks.

The Confined Space Regulations 1997 (CSR 97) will apply to any work within this place and contain these key duties:

- Avoid entry to confined spaces, e.g. by doing the work from the outside;
- If entry to a confined space is unavoidable, follow a safe system of work; and
- Put in place adequate emergency arrangements before the work starts.
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require employers to carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to employees and others for all work activities to decide what measures are necessary for safety. For work in confined spaces, this means identifying the hazards present, assessing the risks and determining what precautions to take.

## **2. EQUALITY AND INCLUSION STATEMENT**

HFRS has a legal responsibility under the Equality Act 2010, and a commitment, to ensure it does not discriminate either directly or indirectly in any of its functions and services nor in its treatment of staff, in relation to race, sex, disability, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, gender reassignment or marriage and civil partnership. It also has a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled applicants, employees and service users.

## **3. TRAINING**

Personnel will receive initial and regular refresher training in confined space procedures. Where an individual identifies shortcomings in their own knowledge in this area, they must make their line manager aware in order for appropriate training to be organised and delivered within a reasonable timescale.

## **4. RISK ASSESSMENT**

The risks posed to personnel working in confined spaces are many and varied. They include flammable substances, toxic gas, fumes or vapour, the ingress or presence of liquid, oxygen deficiency, flowing solids and the presence of heat.

The Standard Operating Procedures for work in Confined Space provides guidance which relates to emergency rescue work in confined spaces only. The information provided should be used during the dynamic risk assessment process on the incident ground but not as a basis for meeting the requirements of the CSR 97 in a non-emergency situation.

## 5. REDUCING THE RISK

HFRS will do all that is reasonably practicable to reduce the risk to personnel working in confined spaces. This will include:

### Utilising a Safe System of Work

A safe system of work must be employed at every incident and will include using competent personnel, the wearing of PPE including breathing apparatus, effective communication systems, gas detection, lighting, isolation of power supplies, preventing the ingress of substances, emergency arrangements and the use of confined space equipment. This list is not exhaustive.

### Nominating Safety Officers

Safety officers with a responsibility for the supervision of all aspects of confined space working must be appointed on every occasion.

### Effective Consultation

The CSR 97 define a process of consultation between industry and the emergency services where prolonged confined space operations are likely to take place. The occupier's risk assessment may be used to review procedures and systems.

### Appropriate Pre-determined Attendance

The weight of response to incidents will take into account hazards identified at particular premises.

### Inspections under the Fire Services Act 2004 Section 7(2)d

Premises with known confined spaces will be included in the 7(2)d process of inspections. Training exercises may also be planned at these particular premises.

### Training

Personnel will be given initial training and refresher training at regular intervals on confined space systems of work and associated equipment.

## 6. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information the Approved Code of Practice for the CSR 97 can be obtained from the Health, Safety and Environment Section or directly from the Health and Safety Executive's website.

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## **7. EMPLOYEE'S DUTIES**

Regulation 14 of Management of Health, Safety and Environment at Work Regulations 1999 places the following duties on all employees:

- Using the equipment, safe systems of work and procedures provided by the Service in accordance with training and instruction given.
- Informing their line manager without delay of any situation which may present a serious and imminent danger.
- Notifying their line manager of any shortcoming in health and safety arrangements.

## **8. MONITORING PERFORMANCE**

Incidents, exercises and training events involving work in confined spaces will require monitoring through the operational assurance (OA) process. Information captured during debriefs must be recorded on the OA form. This will ensure all relevant sections are made aware of any safety critical events, areas of concern or related good practices which may then be actioned as a means of improving performance across the Service.

**If you require further guidance on this document, please contact the  
Health, Safety & Environment Section**