
Confined Space Permits, Gas Testing and Rescue Readiness Training Course for HSE Leaders

23 – 27 May 2027
Zoom





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Programme Summary

Confined space permits, gas testing and rescue readiness are the subject of this one-week training course for HSE and operations leaders at managerial level, ending in a confined space entry control pack for one site. Entry into tanks, vessels, pits and ducts exposes workers to hazards that cannot be seen, and the controls that protect them depend on management systems. The programme moves from hazard identification, through permits and gas testing, to rescue readiness, and then to a worked pack. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme in confined space permits and rescue readiness.

The Business Case

Confined space incidents often involve more than one casualty, because colleagues enter to help without protection. Typical causes are an unidentified space, a permit signed without a check, a gas test not repeated or a rescue plan that exists only on paper. Managers who govern the permit cycle and test rescue arrangements reduce the chance of such events and can show evidence to auditors.

- Unplanned Entries: Fall as spaces are inventoried, marked and brought under the permit system.
- Permit Quality: Improves as issuers, testers and attendants are assessed against agreed criteria.
- Rescue Readiness: Improves as rescue plans are drilled and equipment is checked before entry.

Principles and Evidence Base

- ISO 45001: Its requirements for hazard identification and operational control structure the programme work in Sessions 1 and 4.
- Hierarchy of Controls: Ranking elimination, substitution, engineering and administrative measures guides the decision on whether entry is needed in Session 1.
- Permit-to-Work Control Cycle: Its stages of request, isolation, testing, authorisation, monitoring and close-out guide the permit design in Session 2.

Intended Participants

- HSE managers who own the entry procedure and its audit.
- Operations and maintenance managers who plan work in tanks, vessels and pits.
- Contractor and facility managers who supervise entry teams.
- Emergency response leads who plan and drill rescue arrangements.

The programme serves oil and gas, utilities, manufacturing, water and construction organisations.



Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to identify and classify confined spaces and their hazards across a site.
2. Participants will be able to evaluate whether entry can be avoided or reduced using the hierarchy of controls.
3. Participants will be able to construct a permit process with isolation, ventilation and gas testing steps.
4. Participants will be able to diagnose weaknesses in permit issue, attendant duties and contractor control.
5. Participants will be able to prioritise rescue arrangements and test them against realistic scenarios.
6. Participants will be able to justify a confined space entry control pack to a site leadership team.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Confined Space Hazards and Entry Decisions

Which spaces are confined, what can harm an entrant and can entry be avoided?

- Confined Space Inventory and Classification
- Hazard Identification by Space Type
- Atmospheric and Physical Hazard Profile
- Hierarchy of Controls Applied to Entry
- Entry Need Decision Record

Day 2: Confined Space Permit System

How does a permit make entry controlled rather than assumed?

- Permit-to-Work Control Cycle Mapping
- Isolation and Lock-Out Plan
- Ventilation and Purging Plan
- Roles of Issuer, Tester and Attendant
- Confined Space Permit Template

Day 3: Gas Testing and Monitoring

How is the atmosphere shown to be acceptable and kept so?

- Acceptable Entry Conditions Statement
- Gas Detector Selection and Calibration Record
- Test Sequence and Retest Rules
- Continuous Monitoring Plan
- Gas Test Log Review



Day 4: Rescue Readiness and Emergency Response

What happens in the first minutes when an entrant is in trouble?

- Rescue Plan for Each Space Type
- Non-Entry Retrieval Options
- Rescue Equipment and Team Readiness Check
- Alarm and Communication Protocol
- Rescue Drill Evaluation Form

Day 5: Applying Confined Space Controls to One Site

Is the confined space entry control pack ready for the site leadership team?

- Classifying Site Spaces Using Session 1 Methods
- Testing a Permit Against Session 2 Criteria
- Reviewing a Gas Test Log with Session 3 Rules
- Checking a Rescue Plan Against Session 4 Readiness Items
- Completing the Confined Space Entry Control Pack

Methodology

The programme is built around structured exercises and case analysis. Participants work with anonymised incident summaries, sample permits and site layouts, build a space inventory and review permits and rescue plans in small teams, then present their pack to a mock leadership team.

- Suggested activity: Classifying ten spaces from a sample plant layout.
- Suggested activity: Auditing a completed permit for missing steps.
- Suggested activity: Walking a rescue plan through a simulated entrant collapse.

Capstone Output

Each participant completes a confined space entry control pack for one site. It contains a space inventory, an entry decision record, a permit template, a gas testing and monitoring plan, a rescue plan with a drill form and a short note for the leadership team. It is used to brief site leaders, to audit the permit system and to plan the first drill.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is confined space permits training suitable for managers who do not enter spaces themselves?

Yes. Confined space permits training is set at managerial level and assumes responsibility for HSE, operations, maintenance or contractors, not personal entry experience.



Which frameworks does the confined space permits work rest on in this programme?

The confined space permits work rests on ISO 45001 for occupational health and safety management, the hierarchy of controls and the permit-to-work control cycle.

How is the confined space entry control pack used at work?

You use the confined space entry control pack to brief site leaders, audit the permit system and plan the first rescue drill.

How do confined space permits differ from a general permit-to-work programme?

Confined space permits add space classification, gas testing, attendants and rescue planning to the general permit cycle, which covers hot work, electrical work and other hazardous tasks.