

Standard Operating Procedure

SOP-274.01 Confined Space Entry (CSE)

(Training Resource Only)

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1. Introduction

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) specifies the minimum requirements for confined space entry at the Bulkan North Mine Site in accordance with section 96 of *the Queensland Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation*.

The procedure does not provide for the risks associated with confined space entry outside the boundaries of the Bulkan North Mine Site.

This SOP applies to all Coal Mine Workers and visitors at the Bulkan North mine site.

2. Definitions

Term	Definition
Confined Space	<p>A confined space means an enclosed or partially enclosed space that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is not designed or intended primarily to be occupied by a person; and • is, or is designed or intended to be, at normal atmospheric pressure while any person is in the space; and • is or is likely to be a risk to health and safety from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an atmosphere that does not have a safe oxygen level, or - contaminants, including airborne gases, vapours and dusts, that may cause injury from fire or explosion, or - harmful concentrations of any airborne contaminants, or - engulfment. <p>(Confined Spaces Code of Practice - Safe Work Australia, 2021)</p>
Confined Space Entry	<p>When a person's head or upper body is within the boundary of the confined space. Note that inserting an arm for the purpose of atmospheric testing is not considered as entry to a confined space. (AS2865-2009)</p>
RPE	Respiratory Protective Equipment
Confined Space Entry Permit	The Ausmite Bulkan North Confined Space Entry Permit is required for any work that involves entry into a confined space.
WRAC	Workplace Risk Assessment and Control
CMW	Coal mine worker (for the purpose of this SOP includes all contractors and visitors)

3. Competencies / Authorisation

Only persons deemed as competent and holding the appropriate prescribed competency shall undertake confined space entry. The confined space entry competency is to be refreshed every three years.

Unit Code	Unit Description
RIIWHS202E	Enter and work in confined spaces

Activities that support confined space entry require that personnel be competent and authorised in accordance with the relevant Bulkan North procedure.

Only persons deemed competent (i.e. trained, assessed and authorised) shall manage or undertake entry into a confined space. This includes those who may:

- Authorise, issue or manage a CSE Permit (Responsible person, Authorised Person, Permit Holder)
- Enter a confined space (confined space worker)
- Act as a Sentry for a CSE

4. Responsibilities

Authorised Person / Responsible Person (permit issuer)

Shall ensure that:

- When authorising the permit, consideration is given to other parallel or adjacent tasks that may impact upon those working in a confined space
- The Permit Holder, Sentry and CSE workers comply with this procedure
- Any isolations, atmospheric purging or restrictions as to the scope of work that can be undertaken during the CSE are understood and complied with
- An atmospheric gas tester that is in date for calibration is available for atmospheric monitoring and that the configuration of sensor cells is appropriate for the nature of the confined space atmosphere
- A JSA applicable to work activity has been completed and is attached to the CSE Permit
- The JSA has involved the Permit Holder

Permit Holder (person in charge of the work)

Shall ensure that:

- The requirements of the permit are applied in full
- Competent person is available and allocated to act as the Sentry
- Only competent persons are assigned to work inside the confined space
- He/she familiarises all team members with the requirements of the CSE Permit and attached JSA

CSE Sentry (confined space safety observer)

Shall ensure that:

- They remain attendant at the point of entry to the confined space at all times
- They monitor entry and exiting of the confined space and ensure that all persons sign on and off of the Confined Space Entry Record appropriately.
- They monitor hazards around the confined space
- Remain in contact through approved methods with those inside the confined space
- They fulfil their obligations as required by the permit
- The Sentry has the authority to order workers to exit the space if any hazardous situation arises and initiate an emergency if warranted.

5. Preparing for Confined Space Entry

Confined Space Register

Before entering any confined space, the person completing the permit shall examine the Confined Space Register (CSR) for relevant details.

The CSR will include a list of designated and identified confined spaces at the Bulkan North Mine Site along with known hazards and risks associated with each confined spaces.

Risk Assessment

Prior to entering a confined space, a JSA must be completed and must, as a minimum, consider:

- The possibility that work can be carried out without entering the confined space
- Restrictions on entry and exit to the confined space
- Potential for the following hazards:
 - Presence of harmful airborne contaminants
 - Unsafe oxygen levels
 - Fire or explosion
 - Engulfment.
 - Uncontrolled introduction of substances
 - Exposure to biological, mechanical, environmental, radiation or electrical hazards
 - Exposure to noise
- Hazards outside the confined space e.g. vertical opening with risk to fall in
- Physical or psychological demands of working in a confined space
- Potentially hazardous services connected to the confined space
- Nearby work that may impact upon those in the confined space. Typical examples include:
 - Use of welders, generators or other plant that generates fumes, heat or particulate matter
 - Blasting or painting and the generation of fumes, a source of fire or contamination
 - Lifting, rigging or other movement of suspended load over or adjacent to the confined space
 - Pressure or hydro testing, decanting of fuels, oils or other liquids

The control of exposure to noise in the confined space may require further assessment and discrete controls on a case-by-case basis. Exposure levels (both Peak and TWA) will be determined based on historical evidence and task monitoring to verify that adequate hearing protection has been provided to address the actual exposure levels. Additional controls such as the use of rubber mats (as damping) or task modification may be required once actual conditions are verified. Refer also: WRAC **SOP-274.01 Confined Space Entry** and WRAC **SOP-202.01 Personal Protective Equipment**.

Confined Space Work Permit

A copy of the CSE Permit and the relevant JSA shall be maintained adjacent to the point of entry.

Isolations

Potentially hazardous services connected to the confined space must be isolated prior to entering.

Standby Person

A dedicated Sentry must be in place at all times during a confined space entry.

PPE

Only PPE / RPE which complies with the relevant Australia Standards shall be used.

Signage and Barricading

All confined spaces shall have relevant signage, as per below, in place at any given time:



Atmospheric Testing

Before each entry to a confined space, the atmosphere must be tested irrespective of what previous conditions existed. Initial atmospheric testing is to be conducted at the point of entry.

The gas monitor must complete a self-test in a fresh air area away from any contaminated environment. The self-test must be undertaken **before** completing an atmospheric test of the confined space itself.

Where the atmosphere exceeds the threshold limit for a specific gas, then entry into the confined space shall not proceed and any work already commenced must cease and workers removed from the confined space.

The threshold limits for specific gases are prescribed on the permit.

The source or reason for the presence of the contaminant or atmospheric condition **MUST** be investigated and determined. Flushing or ventilation will be required prior to any further entry.

6. Conducting the Work

Sentry

The Sentry must:

- Remain outside the confined space and do no other work other than monitor the workers inside the space
- Maintain regular positive communication with confined space workers
- Maintain effective radio communications with the Permit Holder and Ausmite Bulkan North supervision
- Communicate to workers when threshold levels of gases are approached or exceeded
- Monitor and record the atmosphere (if required) at the point of entry to the confined space
- Record the entry and exit of all personnel working in or entering the confined space
- Never enter the confined space to attempt a rescue unless part of a formal emergency response team
- Check that any equipment used for access, lighting and ventilation is fit for purpose

7. Completion of Work

The following activities must be undertaken following the completion of work in a confined space:

- Verify that all equipment, materials, consumables and waste product has been removed from within the confined space
- Verify that all persons recorded as having entered the confined space have also exited
- Replace the barrier at the point(s) of entry to the confined space
- Remove signs and barricades delineating the work area
- Ensure that any isolations have been removed as per **SOP-124.01 Isolation and Tagging**.
- Sign-off and close the CSE Permit and return it to the Authorised person

Appendix: Summary of Key Points

-  Any confined space entry requires a JSA and Confined Space Entry Permit to be completed and authorised PRIOR to commencing work
-  A CSE Permit is only valid for the task specified on the Permit and for the duration specified
-  A Sentry and area delineation shall be maintained for the duration of the period that the confined space is occupied
-  Work and task planning shall consider the impact of adjacent workplace activities
-  Only those persons deemed competent through training and assessment shall enter and undertake any form of work in a confined space
-  Only persons deemed competent and authorised shall manage or accept CSE Permits, act as a Sentry or undertake work within a confined space
-  The atmospheric testing requirements must be established and completed prior to initial entry and on subsequent re-entry into a confined space
-  All CMW's MUST comply with any directive or instruction provided by the Sentry
-  The requirement for isolation must be determined and the required isolation(s) MUST be completed prior to commencing entry into a confined space
-  All equipment, tools, waste materials, PPE and personal items must be verified as having been removed from the confined space upon completion of the work

Ausmite Worker / Contractor Declaration of Compliance

I (Print Name) _____ declare that I have read and understood the requirements and procedures of this Ausmite Bulkan North Mine Site SOP being document number and title: **SOP-274.01 Confined Space Entry.**

I acknowledge that while performing any work on the Ausmite Bulkan North mine site, I must comply with all aspects of this SOP. I understand that failure to comply with this SOP may result in me being escorted from the work site with re-admission and/or approval to continue work duties being at the sole discretion of Ausmite management.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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