Qualifications in Working in Confined Spaces (6150)

The 6150 Centre Requirements Document

www.cityandguilds.com
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Contents

1 Foreword

This document contains the **minimum** requirements for centres seeking approval to run the new qualifications for Working in Confined Spaces (6150). It is **also** the minimum criteria document that External Quality Assurer (AQA) will consult when endorsing direct claims status (DCS) on already approved 6150 centres. Therefore, irrespective of approval status, all centres should consult this document.

The full suite of 6150 qualifications has been developed jointly between City & Guilds and CABWI Awarding Body. Both organisations are in the process of working towards a formal joint agreement on the confined spaces qualifications. In the interim City & Guilds will administer the qualifications through its Walled Garden.

This document may contain references to both organisations but all operational activity, until further notice, must go through City & Guilds. For further information on the Awarding Body relationship, please consult the document **6150 City & Guilds and CABWI: working together**, available of the 6150 webpage on the City & Guilds website.

For further information on centre and qualification approval, please consult the City & Guilds website **www.cityandguilds.com**.

All of the qualification documentation can be found on the 6150 Confined Spaces webpage on the City & Guilds website.

The Qualifications are:

- 6150-01 Working in Low Risk Confined Spaces: *Water*
- 6150-02 Working in Medium Risk Confined Spaces: *Water*
- 6150-03 Working in High Risk Confined Spaces: *Water*
- 6150-14 Top Man / Person for High Risk Confined Spaces: *Water*
- 6150-05 Emergency Rescue and Recovery of Casualties from Confined Spaces: *Water*
- 6150-06 Working in Medium Risk Confined Spaces: *Water* (Top Man) (Non-entrant)
- 6150-51 Working in Low Risk Confined Spaces
- 6150-52 Working in Medium Risk Confined Spaces
- 6150-53 Working in High Risk Confined Spaces
- 6150-54 Top Man / Person for High Risk Confined Spaces
- 6150-55 Emergency Rescue and Recovery of Casualties from Confined Spaces
- 6150-56 Working in Medium Risk Confined Spaces (Top Man) (Non-entrant)

The main difference between 01 – 14 & 51 – 56 is that the former contain the word ‘Water’ in their titles.

Please note: Diagrams courtesy of Water UK’s Occasional Guidance Note (OGN)

2 Introduction

In previous years the City & Guilds 5831 qualification was used to assess confined spaces for employees predominantly in the water industry and against the water industry national classifications (NC1 – NC4) in confined spaces. The 6150 qualifications are a departure from traditional NCs and have been designed with an emphasis on a risk-based approach to confined space entry. There are three risk levels - low, medium and high.

The water industry through Water UK's Confined Spaces Health & Safety Group has traditionally been instrumental in coordinating and communicating to its members the importance of on-going training and assessment for employees in confined spaces. The 6150 confined spaces qualifications therefore contained 'Water' in their titles to ensure ease in application and consistency in communication for employers and training & assessment organisations as provision and the standard in this area migrated from the 5831 to the 6150.

However, there are many other sectors within the U.K. and abroad that require their employees to be trained and assessed in working in confined spaces and in response to feedback from both employers and training organisations a suite of 6150 confined spaces qualifications has been introduced that do not contain a water-sector emphasis, and importantly do not contain 'Water' in the title – 6150 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56.

Within the *water-sector* 6150 qualifications there is no direct correlation between the water industry NCs and the risk-based approach. Any risk level can be present in any NC but it may prove to be the case that particular risk levels are more prevalent in specific NCs.

This introduction aims to provide guidance to centres on the characteristics of low, medium and high risk confined spaces in all contexts and the approximate conditions that identify them as such. It also contains the conditions, under which respective assessments must be carried out, and for standardisation of assessment the NCs are referenced.

Guidance is also provided on the remaining 6150 qualifications.

The risk-based approach

The two defining features of a confined space, according to regulation, are 1) the space is enclosed and 2) the presence of a specified risk. Upon identifying a confined space a person(s) must undertake a risk assessment to determine the nature of specified hazards that could be encountered and the probability of encountering them. This will then lead to the classification of the confined space at low, medium or high risk and trigger the use of equipment and procedures appropriate to the confined space environment.

3 The risk levels

3.1 Low Risk

A low risk confined space exists where there is easy entry/exit and natural ventilation. The candidate will check the atmosphere by introducing a gas monitor into the confined space. This will **not** alarm if it is safe to enter.

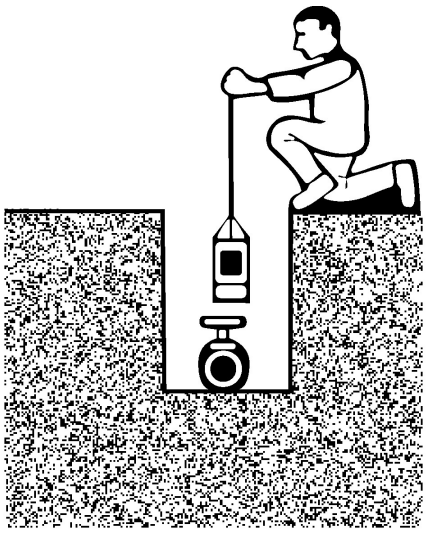
If the gas monitor alarm is triggered prior to entry, the candidate must **not** enter and notify immediately an appropriate person.

If a gas monitor alarm is triggered while working in a low risk confined space, the candidate **must** exit the confined space immediately and notify the relevant person.

Low risk confined spaces could be associated with lone working, requiring the application of appropriate procedures.

This qualification **must** be assessed in a low risk environment. For *standardisation* in assessment please ensure that a confined space is used that meets the water industry NC1 setting.

NC1 Low risk shallow entry with adequate natural or mechanical ventilation, where access is simple and unobstructed and there is no likely risk of flooding e.g. meter pits, valve chambers, booster-pumping stations, PRV chambers.



Additional low risk NC1 assessment characteristics

- Not deeper than 3 metres, with an unobstructed vertical lift.
- Straight ladder into a dark chamber.
- Candidates should be able to stay on lifeline to complete the task.
- During completion of the task the candidates should not move to a position where if they collapsed the retrieval equipment would not operate. Centres should encourage this type of error to see if candidates are aware of their surroundings.
- Fall arrest and retrieval equipment should be necessary.
- The task allocated should be realistic and intensive enough to distract a candidate from Health and Safety matters whilst at the same time not exposing them to dangers.

3.2 Medium Risk

A medium risk confined space exists when there are access issues; a realistic expectation of encountering a specified risk; possible introduction of specified risks during the work activity.

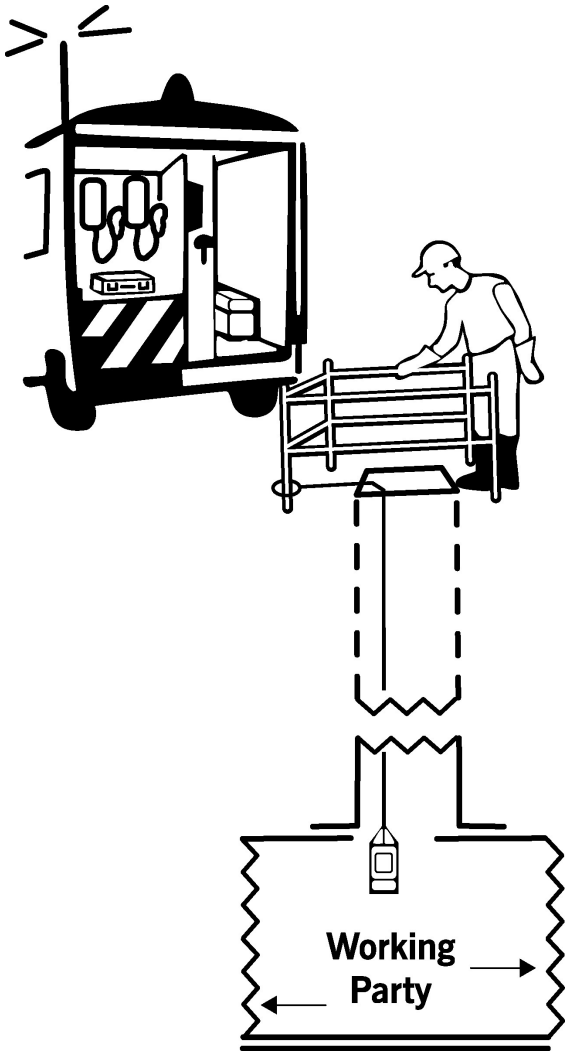
If the gas monitor alarm is triggered prior to entry, the candidate must **not** enter and notify immediately an appropriate person.

As this is a medium risk environment the candidate **must** enter the confined space with escape respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

Upon encountering a specified hazard the candidate must don the escape RPE immediately and exit.

This qualification **must** be assessed in a medium risk environment. For standardisation please ensure that a confined space is used that meets the water industry NC3 setting.

NC3 When it is not possible to have persons permanently attached to a safety line. Usually it will be a team entry which moves away from the entry point e.g. Man entry sewers, utility service subway tunnels, aqueducts and complex wet wells. Working without an attached rescue line and includes working away from the point of entry.



Additional medium risk NC3 assessment characteristics

- Deeper than 3 meters in one or two ladders, but requiring fall arrest.
- Dark, but any real hazard due to access arrangements clearly visible when using portable lighting.
- Able to move a reasonable distance away from the access point, ***estimated at 30 meters***, giving a working team of ***five*** the opportunity to become spread out.
- For all except the bottom man (bottom of the ladder) the use of escape breathing apparatus should be considered necessary, and the bottom man may need to be reassessed if that candidate cannot prove competency in this element (escape respiratory protective equipment RPE) during the first assessment exercise.
- There should be a specific task to complete, which distracts the candidates from Health and Safety matters whilst at the same time not exposing them to dangers.

3.3 High Risk

A high risk confined space exists when there is a specified hazard that cannot be controlled or eliminated. There may or may not be access issues and the candidate is expecting to carry out their work activity in the presence of this specified risk.

An exit from this confined space is triggered when prearranged safety margins are breached.

As this a high risk environment, candidates **must** enter with appropriate respiratory protective equipment (RPE) and wear it throughout the operation.

This qualification must be assessed in a high risk environment. For standardisation please ensure that a confined space is used that meets the water industry NC4 setting.

NC4 Non standard entries involving complex operations which introduce additional risks and require specific controls and rescue arrangements e.g. mechanical hazards, physical complexity of system introduced hazards, enhanced specific intrinsic hazards.

Additional high risk assessment characteristics

- Deeper than 3 meters in one or two ladders, but requiring fall arrest.
- Dark, but any real hazard due to access arrangements clearly visible when using portable lighting.
- Able to move a reasonable distance away from the access point, ***estimated at 30 meters***, giving a working team of ***five*** the opportunity to become spread out.
- The candidate must consider that entry using full working RPE is necessary. This consideration should be precipitated through permanently alarming detectors in the confined spaces, or a permanent odour that could indicate the presence of toxic gas. Through simulation, candidates should feel as they are in the midst of a real hazardous atmosphere. But under no circumstances must candidates be put at risk through the use of an actual real hazardous atmosphere.
- There should be a specific task to complete, which distracts the candidates Health and Safety matters whilst at the same time not exposing them to dangers.

3.4 Top man / person for high risk confined spaces

This qualification is for a top man / person role in a high risk confined spaces environment that also extends to interpretation, supervision and coordination for the team and the work being undertaken in the confined space during both planned work and emergency situations.

In this regard, the role is autonomous and pitched at a higher level than is generally seen of a traditional 'top-man'. This is further emphasised when it is taken into account that in this role the candidate may also be responsible for committing a work team in potentially non-routine environments, which is a significant departure in terms of responsibility, skills and competence of the traditional 'top-man'.

Crucially, though, this qualification does not qualify to a supervisory / management level, which is reflective of planning and overall accountability.

Important: completion of this unit does **not** make the candidate competent to enter / work in a confined space

To meet the full requirements of the national occupational standards underpinning the qualification the assessment **must** take place in a high risk context. Therefore centres **must** consult the requirements for the high risk assessment. The overseer must remain on site at all times throughout the operation.

3.5 Emergency Rescue and Recovery of Casualties

This qualification is for those persons who are part of a dedicated rescue team.

The assessment on this qualification **must** take place in a high risk context and centres **must** refer to high risk assessment requirements. There is a pre-requisite for **any** candidate undertaking this qualification to have successfully completed the appropriate high risk qualification*, which for the water sector is 6150-03 and all other sectors 6150-53. It is the responsibility of centres to validate this information prior to registering or assessing the candidate on this qualification.

EU Skills and Water UK have decreed that candidates holding both unit 822 and 824 from the City & Guilds 5831 will also be permitted access to *both* emergency rescue qualifications – 6150-05 & 6150-55.

*Equivalent qualifications must cover the same content as the National Occupational Standards, and be confirmed by the centre. The centre must submit a Centre Update Form (CUF) to their City & Guilds Quality Team to advise of the equivalent qualifications.

Centres must always ensure that the learner has achieved the qualification and retained the pre-requisite knowledge before they enrol on a programme. The EQA may request to see evidence of this during their next routine quality activity. Evidence should be certified copies of certificates, supported by notes from a professional discussion or a 'skills scan' that has been reviewed by a qualified assessor.

3.6 Further information

The respective qualification units of assessments all contain Notes for Guidance (NFG) to assist centres in designing and executing assessments. These respective units are obtainable via a password for approved centres only on the 6150 webpage of the City & Guilds website.

The **6150 Qualification Handbook**, also on the website contains mapping documents that will assist in the translation between the requirements in the practical observation sheets (also obtainable via a password for approved centres), the units and their Notes for Guidance.

4 Qualification Requirements

There are three strands of requirements centres must meet in order to be granted qualification approval to deliver the new 6150 qualifications. They are

- **Strand A**: centre administration and quality assurance
- **Strand B**: equipment and facilities
- **Strand C:** delivery staff requirements

4.1 Centre administration and quality assurance (Strand A)

Centres **must** demonstrate that they have robust administration and quality assurance systems in place to deliver the qualifications.

Due to the risk assessment undertaken on these qualifications, in order to be able to certificate successful candidates, **all** centres must first be granted direct claims status (DCS), which is granted by City & Guilds after a successful visit and observation by the External Quality Assurer (AQA). The verification model for Awarding Bodies is largely designed to cater for courses that are conducted over months, not days, as is the case with the confined spaces qualifications. Therefore, it may be that in particular cases candidates will need to wait a period of time before receiving their certificates.

Centres will be granted DCS in the following way:

- ongoing systems requirements, in line with set requirements
- 6150-wide DCS - except Emergency Rescue (6150-05 & 6150-55) - is triggered by successful EV observation of High Risk (6150-03 or 6150-53) and sampling of any other qualification assessments undertaken
- separate EV observation is required for Emergency Rescue DCS (6150-05 & 6150-55). However, Emergency Rescue (6150-05 & 6150-55) can trigger 6150-wide DCS, if EV observes before High Risk (6150-03 or 615-53).

If the centre is not approved for High Risk (6150-03 or 6150-53), then successful EV observation of Medium Risk (6150-02 or 6150-52) is a minimum – and will automatically trigger 6150-06 or 6150-06 approval. Similarly, if the centre is not approved for Medium Risk (6150-02 or 6150-52), then successful observation of Low Risk (6150-01 or 6150-51) is required.

Approved centres are encouraged to engage in early dialogue with their City & Guilds regional office and schedule the first EV visit when DCS-required assessments are due to take place.

4.2 Equipment and Facilities (Strand B)

In order to deliver any of the qualifications the minimum equipment and facilities requirements are:

- Absolute mandatory requirements for centres.
- Generic requirements applicable to all of the qualifications.
- Equipment required for those centres wishing to deliver the Low Risk (6150-01 or 6150-51).

Thereafter, if a centre wishes to deliver any of the other qualifications they must add the following equipment in sequential order to the Low Risk:

- Equipment required for the Medium Risk (6150-02 or 6150-52).
- Equipment required for the High Risk (6150-03 or 6150-53) - the Overseeing qualification (6150-14 or 6150-54) has the same requirements as the High Risk.
- Equipment required for the Emergency Rescue (6150-05 or 6150-55).

This approach ensures a degree of flexibility in the qualifications centres decide to deliver.

So, a centre wishing to deliver the Low Risk (6150-01 or 6150-51) qualification requires Mandatory, Generic and Low Risk equipment.

A centre wishing to deliver the Medium Risk (both 6150-02 & 6150-06 or both 6150-52 & 6150-56) requires Mandatory, Generic, Low Risk and Medium Risk equipment.

A centre wishing to deliver the High Risk qualification (6150-03 or 6150-53) requires Mandatory, Generic, Low Risk, Medium Risk and High Risk equipment

The Top Man for High Risk qualification (6150-14 or 6150-54) requires the same equipment as that stipulated for High Risk.

And finally, the Emergency Rescue qualification (6150-05 or 6150-55) requires that centres have the equipment for the High Risk and the Emergency Rescue equipment.

Important: It is the responsibility of centres to ensure that where applicable all equipment meets the appropriate EN specifications. Where EN standards do not exist, equipment should be suitable for purpose.

- A centre wishing to use a “mobile confined spaces unit” should complete a CU form stating they wish to include a mobile unit as part of the centre equipment.
- The use of the mobile unit must be approved by the centre Qualification Consultant (QC)
- The mobile unit should have the following characteristics: Deeper than 3 mtrs in one or two ladders but requiring fall arrest. Giving a working team of five the opportunity to become spread out by being able to move a reasonable distance , estimated at 30 mtrs, away from the bottom of the access point.
- When using the mobile unit the location should be recorded and all facilities should satisfy the scheme requirements.

Mandatory Requirements for all Centres

The practical skills assessment requires dedicated facilities to be provided by the applicant centre as follows.

a Adequate facilities for the storage of equipment used in practical assessments

b Inspection and maintenance staff (PPE & Work Equipment)

c Facility for storing 'quarantined' equipment

d Adequate changing facilities and security for candidates personal belongings

e Assessment task briefing room(s) for up to 10 candidates

f Showers and toilets for both sexes should be available near to the assessment facility. The assessment briefing room, messing and changing facilities shall be within close proximity (***30 minutes***) to a range of suitable confined space facilities as appropriate to the particular assessment.

g The practical assessment simulated confined space must have dimensions and structures which allow the candidate to experience relevant kinaesthetic sensory changes as well as the deployment of people and materials for the task being assessed.

h Simulated confined spaces must be chosen with great care to reflect the various classifications given in each section (high, medium or low risk) below.

i Choice must also follow suitable risk assessments to consider the special case of candidates with non-proven skills and ability.

j The final choice of confined spaces used should provide a range of access openings, which reflect history and current usage. These will be required to practice lifting, signing, guarding, entry and exit routines as well as emergency and escape procedures.

k The internal profile of the chosen confined space must be able to reflect the particular confined space classification and the range of skills a candidate must prove during the assessment

Generic Requirements to all Confined Spaces Qualifications

a All practical assessments must in addition to being performed in as realistic an environment as is possible also be carried out with due regard to the candidates safety, health and welfare. Written, documented and recorded Risk Assessments must be available for all aspects of the practical assessments and these should be regularly reviewed and updated.

b No candidate shall be permitted to undertake an assessment unless equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) and other safety items, which conform to current best practice or with any standard mentioned in statutes or approved codes of practice published from time to time and meets the requirements of the risk assessment.

c Assessment centres may propose to supply any or all of the equipment required by a candidate for the practical assessment

d Notwithstanding any local policy on the provision of equipment all candidates without fail must be made aware of any items they must bring to the assessment centre for their particular assessment

e Should candidates present themselves with equipment, which is below standard in any way, they should be informed with tact and invited to use equipment that does conform to standard.

f Where PPE items are reissued to successive candidates the centre shall ensure that an adequate hygiene routine is in place for the safety and welfare of each users

g Where a policy of provision of PPE is in place the following items suitably maintained should be available for candidates:

i Overalls
- Cotton or cotton mix (non-static generating) overalls with close fitting cuffs, or disposable overalls of a type meeting the requirements of the risk assessment.
- A number sufficient for candidates' size range.
- Where wet conditions may be encountered during assessment, waterproof overalls should be used

ii Gloves and Gauntlets
- A selection sufficient in number for candidates of industrial gloves and gauntlets in rubber, PVC or similar, to the relevant EN standard, should be available (Disposable latex or polyethylene inner gloves may be suitable for many people who wear PVC or rubber outer gloves)

iii Helmets and Caps
- A number sufficient for candidates of Safety helmets to appropriate specification (preferably without forepeak) of a pattern to accept cap lamps if required.
  Note: Candidates must **not** be allowed to wear their own helmet if it is in any way unsuitable through age, misuse or decoration

iv Footwear
- selection and number sufficient for candidates of waders or Wellington rubber boots safety soled and safety toecap with non-sparking profiled soles

The centre shall hold sufficient stocks of the following work equipment for use on assessments.

a Warning Barriers and Warning Signs
   i Sufficient to represent the risk assessment required under Roads and Streetworks legislation
   ii Sufficient to protect bystanders from risks involved in the assessment exercise (not in 5831)

b Mesh guards for manholes
   i. Metal or plastic mesh inserts to prevent tools and debris falling into open manhole.

c Portable gas monitoring equipment
   i A selection and number sufficient for candidates of monitors representing national and delegate use complete with calibration certificates
   ii They should all be at least 3 channel monitors: i.e. monitoring high/ low oxygen levels; flammable gas based upon Methane LEL, and Hydrogen Sulphide, in accordance with the risk assessment
   iii For 4 or 5 channel instruments the extra channel should be Carbon Monoxide and/or Chlorine or a sensor appropriate to the business and candidate usage
   iv All should comply with current legislation and standards for electrical equipment in potentially explosive atmospheres

d Hand lamps, torches and cap lamps
   i A selection and number sufficient for candidates representing business and candidate usage
   ii All must be constructed and certificated to comply with current legislation and standards on equipment in potentially explosive atmospheres
   iii Necessary spares of bulbs, batteries and charging units will be required

e Equipment Register
   i A controlled document recording the history of all the equipment used
   ii The register must contain all safety certificates, initial testing, re-testing and re-calibration. All maintenance and any failure of equipment and its repair must be documented
   iii A routine diary of testing and calibration must be maintained or the particular equipment must be quarantined to prevent its use
   iv Any subsequent purchases necessitated by changes in practice, legislation or business needs must be added to the Equipment Register

f First Aid support for the Centre
   i A selection and number sufficient for the emergency needs of staff and candidates of static and portable first aid kits as required by the Code of Practice to the First Aid at Work Regulations and in accordance with the First Aid risk assessment required by law
   ii Access to a trained First Aider

g Manhole cover lifting devices including a selection of
   i Long and short handle manual lift keys
   ii Long handled lever types on castors
   iii Hydraulic lifters

h A selection of ropes
   i. For tying off and lowering of tools, gas monitors or other equipment. They should preferably be of a braided construction to prevent spinning. They do not need to be safety certificated - 6-8mm diameter will suffice.

Additional Equipment Required for Working in Low Risk Confined Spaces

a Harness and fall arrest systems to appropriate specification

i) Full body harness with safety certification.

ii) Energy absorbers with safety certification.

iii) Fall arrest systems with safety certification.

iv) Types selected should reflect market trend or delegate usage in workplace

Candidates must be familiar with safety harnesses and fall arrest systems as required by the Working at Height Regulations 2005. Centres must train/assess 6150-01/51 candidates in the use of such equipment.

b Man riding safety and rescue winch (tripod or similar mounted)

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

ii) Any fall arrest block or winch supplied should have cable capacity for the intended shaft or manhole being used.

iii) Where a fully suspended decent is planned – the rescue lifeline is additional to the man-riding system

Additional Equipment Required for Working in Medium Risk Confined Spaces

a Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE):

i) Self contained compressed air positive pressure escape breathing apparatus, 10 minutes nominal duration. The range should reflect business and delegate use and cover facemask type and hood type equipment. (Spare cylinders to maintain training exercises will be required)
ii) Self contained closed circuit oxygen re-breather (chemical) escape breathing apparatus. Training sets should be purchased; these do not contain oxygen-generating chemicals. Purchases should reflect business and delegate usage.
iii) A supply of disinfecting and cleaning cloths supplied by the breathing apparatus manufacturer, for facemask cleansing before use.
iv) The facility to earth bond ventilation equipment that may cause static electricity to discharge via a spark (not in 5831).

b Air horns (with disposable compressed air supply)

i) Portable air horns, powered by disposable compressed air/inert gas, for signalling purposes.

ii) Other types of signalling devices can be used

Equipment Required for Working in High Risk Confined Spaces & Top Man for High Risk

a Additional Gas testing equipment

i) Carbon Monoxide, measuring in the range specified in the current legislation.
ii) Where appropriate additional gas detection equipment representing business and candidate usage, such as: Chlorine, Cyanide, Sulphur Dioxide and Hydrogen Sulphide.

b A selection of chains, identity tags and padlocks for isolation and locking off purposes

i) Tags should be numbered, capable of taking multiple padlocks and no padlock should have more than 3 dedicated keys.

c Air Movers, Ventilation Equipment

i) Risk assessments may require exhaust ventilation or forced air ventilation as a control measure.
ii) Equipment demonstrated must have a 'safe' power source i.e. comply with electrical equipment standards in potentially explosive atmospheres or if powered by an internal combustion engine it must be outside of the confined space and its own exhaust led away to some safe emission point.
iii) The facility to earth bond ventilation equipment that may cause static electricity to discharge via a spark (not in 5831).

d Breathing Apparatus, where appropriate, additional equipment representing business and candidate usage, all to appropriate specification

i) Self contained compressed air positive pressure demand breathing apparatus of nominal duration 30 minutes to appropriate specification. Range to suit business and delegate usage. (Spare cylinders to maintain training exercises will be required).
ii) Air-line or trolley set compressed air breathing apparatus complete with spare cylinders, nominal duration one hour complying appropriate specification.

e Chemical Resistant (Gas Tight Suits) (Optional)

i) Specimens should reflect business and delegate usage. They may be self-contained enclosing the worker and his or her breathing apparatus or
ii) Of a type, which has a secure umbilicus with an airline protecting the users breathing

f Breathing apparatus usage 'tally board

Equipment Required for Emergency Rescue and Recovery

a Self contained compressed air positive pressure demand breathing apparatus of nominal duration 30 minutes to appropriate specification. Range to suit business and delegate usage. (Spare cylinders to maintain training exercises will be required).

b Air-line or trolley set compressed air breathing apparatus complete with spare cylinders, nominal duration one hour complying with appropriate specification.

c An artificial casualty, to be anatomically correct as reasonable for the exercise involved. This casualty should be in the region of 50-60 kg. Risk assessments, including manual handling, for the practical exercises must include the handling of this “casualty” (not in 5831)

d Hand operated resuscitators

e An oxygen assisted resuscitator

f Static and portable first aid kits

g Face shields for demonstrating mouth-to-mouth resuscitators

h Resuscitation manikin plus extra face parts or disinfection equipment.

i Training versions of AEDs (automatic external difibulator)

4.3 Delivery requirements of the Working in Confined Spaces (Strand C)

Centres **must** ensure that delivery personnel meet the following requirements

Human Resources

In line with the sector skills council Energy & Utilitiy's assessment strategy all **assessors, internal quality assurers** and **external quality assurers** involved in the delivery of the Confined Spaces qualifications must:

- Demonstrate a high level* of interpersonal and communication skills, comparable with at least the Key Skills and Core Skills (Communication) identified within "Develop productive working relationships with colleagues" (MSC D1)
- Have up-to-date knowledge of current practice and emerging issues within their industry and be aware there may be differences between the four UK countries
- Have a thorough understanding of the National Occupational Standards / assessment units for the qualifications they are assessing or quality assuring and be able to interpret them and offer advice on assessment-related matters
- Show experience and working knowledge of the assessment and quality assurance processes relating to the context in which they are working
- Demonstrate they have relevant and credible technical and/or industrial experience not more than 5 years old - at a level relevant to their role and the award
- Show they are able to act as an emissary of the awarding body and be able to facilitate consistency across centres
- Have or are working towards being qualified - Assessor or Quality Assurer units of competence (A or D units or V units or TAQA units) or working towards the appropriate TAQA (6317) qualification
- Demonstrate a commitment to continuing professional development and to keeping abreast of the changing environment and practices in confined spaces
- Demonstrate they have relevant and credible technical and/or industrial experience within the industry appropriate to these contexts – "Working in Confined Spaces"

Technical and Occupational Experience

Assessors and Internal Quality Assurers **must also** meet the following occupational and technical requirements for approval to assess and quality assure the Confined Spaces Qualifications:

i) Show at least two years' experience out of the previous five years of working in confined spaces in suitable sectors such as wider utilities, oil & gas, mining, civil engineering, nuclear etc - this can include training or assessment in a vocational environment. The experience must include a thorough working knowledge of:

- current confined spaces regulations; Water UK's Occasional Guidance Note (OGN) – *for water qualifications*, and current National Occupational Standards (NOS)
- the dynamics producing the confined space.
- nature and implications of hazards in confined spaces
- the range and function of gas monitoring
- the selection and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) which is common and currently used.
- the range and function of breathing apparatus associated with the relevant risk level.
- the operation and use of safe systems of work, including permits to work schemes.

ii) Be able to demonstrate an ability to

- prepare assessment work sites and present instructions to assessment candidates effectively.
- discriminate between safe and unsafe candidate performance

Important: For the Emergency Rescue qualification (6150-05 and 6150-55) only, assessors must hold a basic first aid certificate in line with latest Water UK OGN requirements.

For all other confined spaces qualifications, assessors will not be required to hold a first aid certificate. This, however, does not remove the requirement to have at all times during the assessment immediate access to a person holding these certificates.

External Quality Assurers **must also** meet the following occupational and technical requirements for approval to quality assure the Confined Spaces Qualifications:

i) Show technical and occupational experience in the utilities sector, which can include a training and assessment environment. They must also show an awareness of the following:
   - current confined spaces regulations
   - Water UK's Occasional Guidance Note (OGN)
   - Current confined spaces National Occupational Standards (NOS)

ii) Be able to demonstrate an ability to:

discriminate between safe and unsafe candidate performance