Smart Awards Level 2 SA060 Combined Entrant and Entry Controller for Medium Risk Confined Spaces

QUALIFICATION SPECIFICATION

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Introduction

This qualification equips learners with the knowledge and skills to safely prepare for, enter, and work within medium risk confined space environments. It also covers the correct and safe procedures for implementing an emergency evacuation. Learners will be provided with relevant training and be assessed on entering, exiting, and conducting entry controller responsibilities in a medium risk confined space. Learners will demonstrate their skills and knowledge using equipment and tools in accordance with manufacturers' specifications and working safely whilst following prescribed procedures, responding to emergencies following contingency plans using escape and emergency equipment.

This accreditation ensures that successful learners will be suitably trained, assessed, and accredited to industry and National Occupational Standard (NOS).

Learners must be a minimum of 16 years of age, be comfortable in a confined space environment, have a reasonable level of physical fitness and be medically fit.

Please note that entering the confined space is physically demanding. Centres/assessors must ensure that learners are capable of the training and assessment requirements via a declaration. Learners will be required to use a full body harness and fall arrest equipment to a safe working load, centres/assessors must confirm learners are within the weight limitations for the fall arrest, working at height equipment. Donning basic emergency escape breathing apparatus (EBA) will be required for this qualification.

To ensure a standardised assessment environment, the medium risk confined space used for the practical assessment must take place in a simulated confined space that replicates the NC3 category as stipulated in the Water UK Occasional Guidance Note, The Classification and Management of Confined Space Entries.

Key Information	
Name	Smart Awards Level 2 SA060 Combined Entrant and Entry Controller for Medium Risk Confined Spaces
Accreditation	This qualification is approved by: • Ofqual: Qualification number: 610/6224/8
Level	2
Duration	2 days
Guided Learning Hours (Ofqual)	14 hours
Time/Notional Learning Hours (SQA Accreditation)	
Ofqual Total Qualification	16
RQF - Ofqual Credit - Credit value represents the size of a unit which is determined by the learning time. One credit = 10 hours of notional learning.	2
Age	16 Plus

Qualification Type	Vocationally Related Qualification
Smart Awards Product Area	Safety Qualifications
Sector Subject Area	5.2 - Building and construction
Certification	This qualification is valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of certificate issue. To remain compliant and eligible to work on telecommunications networks, individuals must renew their qualification before the expiry date.
Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS)	This qualification is fully aligned with the requirements of the Network Operative Passport Scheme (NOPS). Successful completion of this qualification is recorded within the NOPS system, ensuring operatives are visible and verifiable to employers and site access systems across the industry.
Prerequisites and Entry Requirements	There are no formal entry requirements and Smart Awards will not restrict access on the grounds of prior academic attainment, employment, geographic location, or any other grounds. There are no barriers to access or progression, supporting inclusivity and equal opportunity for all learners. Learners must have a basic understanding of the English language for regulated qualifications that are approved by Ofqual or SQA Accreditation. Please note: The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) requires at least one person on site to hold a Street Works card to work on the highway. This Smart Awards accreditation is based on a pre-requisite that any work on the highway requires appropriate Street Works accreditation to be held by an individual working on site, and that this individual is qualified to check that the planned provision of footways, traffic lanes and safety zones determined by the site survey meets with the requirements of the site location and approved procedures and practices required by the NRSWA 1991. Some companies' policies may vary where more than one person on site is required to hold a valid Street Works card.
Mandatory units and optional routes to completion.	Learners must complete the Combined Entrant and Entry Controller for Medium Risk Confined Spaces unit in full to achieve this qualification. No optional units or routes are available.
Additional requirements to achieve this qualification.	None
Methods of Assessment	This qualification will be assessed through a practical and theory test. The aim of the assessment is to ensure successful learners have adequate knowledge and understanding of working in a Medium Risk Confined Space as an Entrant and Entry Controller in a telecommunications environment.

	Assessment guidance, assessor requirements and additional qualification documentation is supplied to approved Smart Awards centres via Quartz.
Theory test	Learners are required to pass a 20-question multiple-choice test, with questions randomly selected from a secure question bank to ensure comprehensive coverage of all assessment criteria. The test is timed, and learners will have 30 minutes to complete it. All multiple-choice tests are conducted online via the Smart Awards online assessment platform.
Practical assessment	All learners undertaking the SA060 Level 2 Award in Combined Entrant and Entry Controller for Medium Risk Confined Spaces will be assessed on both Entrant and Entry Controller responsibilities. This ensures learners demonstrate full competence across the practical tasks, safety controls, and contingency planning required for medium risk confined space operations. The learner will have 90 minutes to complete the practical assessment
Grading	Learners will be graded (Fail or Pass) on an achievement or non-achievement basis. The final grade will be determined by collective performance in the two assessment tools (theory and practical). Learners are required to achieve both the theory and practical assessments to achieve the qualification. • Theory - To achieve a pass, 80% or more is required. • Practical - If one major fault is given the learner will automatically fail. • Learners must receive fewer than eight minor faults to pass the practical assessment. If there are major health and safety failures due to learners' actions or understanding, the assessment MUST be stopped. The learner should be taken to a suitable area to be explained the reason for stopping the assessment and that his assessment is deemed as failed. Guidance on the major failures that should result in stopping the assessment is provided in the practical assessment.
Reasonable adjustments and special considerations	Smart Awards approved centres that have learners with specific requirements should refer to the Smart Awards Reasonable Adjustments and Special Considerations Policy and Procedure. This document outlines the support available to ensure fair access to assessments. It can be found on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk
Recognition of Prior Learning	Smart Awards is committed to supporting Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and has established a dedicated policy and set of procedures to guide and assist approved centres in its implementation. The full policy is available on the Smart Awards website at www.smartawards.co.uk

Required resources and site requirements for delivering this Qualification	The practical assessment area must be a simulated environment and approved by Smart Awards before conducting the assessment.
	
	The area requires mandatory:
	• Suitable safe access to the shaft hatch of the confined space
	• Suitable access opening to the confined space (no smaller than 600x600mm)
	• 3-meter vertical shaft with fixed certified vertical ladder or steps.
	• A minimum 30-meter traverse (may be split level)
	• A separate task in the confined space to occupy each learner, (5 max to be assessed) this could be a workpiece to place a nut on bolts, a telecoms connection or mind game etc.
	• The environment should be as dark as possible.
	• Have provisions of Intrinsically safe lighting for an emergency.
	• Have appropriately placed emergency escape door(s) on every level, exiting into a safe environment.
	• Emergency escape door to have an illuminated exit sign on or above the exit inside.
	• Enough space through the entry opening or a second hatch to allow the blower trunking to be routed.
	• Have no sharp objects in the confined space or blind drops.
	• Centre devised Work pack containing:
	  ○ Job description
	  ○ RAMs
	  ○ Task induction
	  ○ Equipment inspection records
	  ○ Permit
	  ○ Gas detection record (ongoing)
	  ○ Entry log
	  ○ Incident log
	
	The rig must have appropriate control measures in place to ensure safe use at all times, for example fixed guard rails where applicable etc.
	
	Optional:
	• Night vision CCTV to observe learners secure Escape Breathing Apparatus (EBAs).
	• Smoke machine. (This must be used with control measures to ensure the smoke can be vented at a rate of 2m3/sec in the event of a 'real' emergency).
	• Audio speakers

Qualification Structure

The Level 2 Award in Combined Entrant and Entry Controller for Medium Risk Confined Spaces qualification consists of one mandatory unit, which learners must complete to achieve the qualification. Attainment at Level 2 demonstrates the learner's ability to apply relevant knowledge, skills, and procedures to carry out clearly defined tasks and resolve straightforward problems with appropriate direction or supervision.

SMART AWARDS Level 2 Award in Combined Entrant and Entry Controller for Medium Risk Confined Spaces • Ofqual: Qualification number: 610/6224/8								
Minimum TQT for this pathway = 16 **Minimum number of credits = 2** **Minimum number of units = 1**			**Minimum number of GLH = 14** **Minimum number of assessment time = 2** **Other learning time = 0**					
Unit Number	**Unit title**	**Level**	**M/O**	**GLH**	**ASS**	**OTHER LEARNING**	**TQT**	**CREDITS**
M/651/7456	Combined Entrant and Entry Controller for Medium Risk Confined Spaces	2	M	14	2	0	16	2

Learner Support and Assessment Conditions

Learners will have access to support throughout the training period via their trainer. Trainers are responsible for ensuring that each learner is adequately prepared and competent before presenting them for assessment.

No support or assistance may be given to the learner during either the theory or practical assessments, to maintain the integrity and validity of the qualification.

Qualification objectives and requirements

This qualification confirms that the learner has demonstrated the required competence to work safely in the Medium Risk Confined Space. To successfully obtain this qualification, the learners will need to demonstrate the knowledge and ability requirements set out in the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Unit Title:	Combined Entrant and Entry Controller for Medium Risk Confined Spaces
Unit Reference Number:	M/651/7456
NOS	EUSCS02 and EUSCS04

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
The learner will:	**The learner can:**
1. Know the relevant legislation, guidance, and organisational requirements for working safely in confined spaces.	1.1. Outline the main principles of current confined space, health, safety, environmental and other applicable legislation, and regulations. 1.2. List the approved codes of practice and guidance for working safely in confined spaces. 1.3. State individual responsibilities for maintaining own and others health and safety in the workplace under legislation. 1.4. Outline the organisation's 'Permit to Work' requirements and implementation procedures.

2. Know the classifications of confined spaces, associated hazards and risks, how emergencies can arise, and the necessary emergency contingency procedures.	2.1 Identify confined space classifications. 2.2 Identify when a space may become a specified confined space. 2.3 State the importance of conducting, reviewing, and recording risk assessments. 2.4 List hazardous gases, substances and situations that are associated with confined spaces. 2.5 Outline how an emergency may arise whilst working in a confined space. 2.6 State the procedure for dealing with emergencies, incidents and near misses. 2.7 Outline individual specified roles and responsibilities for dealing with emergencies. 2.8 Describe communications and reporting systems for emergency situations.
3. Know how to prepare for entry, carry out work activities, and exit a confined space safely in accordance with approved procedures.	3.1 Identify own responsibilities when working as a team. 3.2 List how to conduct pre-checks on and use resources for accessing and for working in confined spaces. 3.3 Identify the pre-entry procedures to be conducted before entering a medium risk confined space. 3.4 List the correct safe working procedures for the confined space environment. 3.5 State the different types of monitoring equipment and how to monitor confined space environmental working conditions and the reasons to be vigilant for changing conditions. 3.6 List how ventilation systems should be configured and the benefits and disadvantages of using them in a confined space. 3.7 Identify factors affecting the selection of emergency breathing apparatus (EBA) and describe its limitations. 3.8 Identify and select the correct personal protective equipment before entering a medium risk confined space.
4. Be able to prepare for work in medium risk confined space environments.	4.1 Confirm that any existing risk assessments are correct before starting work. 4.2 Establish and maintain safety zones, controlling access and movement of people and vehicles around entry points in situations where people need to be kept clear. 4.3 Brief all working parties prior to commencing work, to ensure all working and emergency arrangements are understood by all team members. 4.4 Obtain, set up and check access equipment that is appropriate for entry and exit. 4.5 Select appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which is in good condition. 4.6 Ensure that all entrants have appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) before entering the Confined Space.

	4.7 Check all equipment and tools are suitable and in good order before entering confined spaces. 4.8 Select and examine escape sets for self-rescue prior to starting work and replace them when defective. 4.9 Set up and test signalling and communications systems before entering confined spaces. 4.10 Set up and test ventilation and environmental arrangements are safe before work teams enter the confined space. 4.11 Set up, test and record results of appropriate monitoring equipment before entering confined spaces. 4.12 Resolve any problems connected to the entry, exit or work of the team members within the confined space with designated people.
5. Be able to safely enter a confined space, carry out assigned tasks, and exit in line with safe working practices.	5.1. Obtain authorisation for entry from the designated people supervising work. 5.2. Carry out dynamic risk assessments prior to entry and when required at appropriate times during the work. 5.3. Control the entry into the confined space by the work team using appropriate access methods and controls. 5.4. Enter confined spaces when it is safe to do so, in line with agreed procedures. 5.5. Use access equipment to enter and exit confined spaces in line with procedures for working in medium risk confined spaces. 5.6. Monitor and record conditions and levels of risk within confined spaces on a continuous basis. 5.7. Monitor and respond to information from monitoring equipment at frequent intervals in line with procedures. 5.8. Use communication methods which are suitable for tasks and confined spaces. 5.9. Carry and use escape sets for self-rescue at appropriate times in line with procedures and manufacturers' instruction. 5.10. Remedy any incorrect activities performed by team members without delay. 5.11. Remedy without delay any unsafe activity, equipment, and environmental conditions. 5.12. Assist work team members exiting the confined space in line with safety procedures when incidents or emergencies arise. 5.13. Close down and make work areas safe when work is finished. 5.14. Record and report incidents and emergencies and provide relevant information to emergency rescue teams in line with emergency procedures.

6. Be able to use tools and equipment correctly and safely while working in confined spaces.	6.1 Use specified methods to introduce equipment and tools into confined spaces. 6.2 Follow employers' safe working procedures and equipment manufacturers' instructions. 6.3 Oversee the introduction and recovery of equipment and tools from confined spaces when work is complete. 6.4 Ensure all hygiene and decontamination procedures have been implemented. 6.5 Carry out post-use checks and store equipment and tools in line with manufacturers' instructions.
7. Be able to respond appropriately and promptly to emergencies in confined space environments.	7.1 Initiate emergency plans without delay when dangerous situations arise. 7.2 Use established signalling or communication protocols to initiate emergency plans. 7.3 Control the exit procedure and use of emergency equipment. 7.4 Record and report emergency incidents and their circumstances in line with procedures, liaising with external or emergency personnel when required. 7.5 Complete and forward all documentation and reports at the appropriate time and to the appropriate people, without delay. 7.6 Carry out post-entry debrief.