

CONFINED SPACES

A confined space can be any space of an enclosed nature where there is a risk of death or serious injury from hazardous substances or dangerous conditions (e.g. lack of oxygen).

Examples of this could be as follows

- Tank's / manholes
- Pipelines
- Boreholes
- Sumps
- Enclosed equipment
- Sewers
- Chambers
- Reservoirs
- Tunnels
- Wells

REMEMBER entry into a confined space **MUST** only be as a last resort. Look at alternative ways of doing the task; for example: inspection, sampling and cleaning operations can often be undertaken from outside using appropriate equipment and tools. If in doubt refer to *Confined Space Hierarchy of Control*.

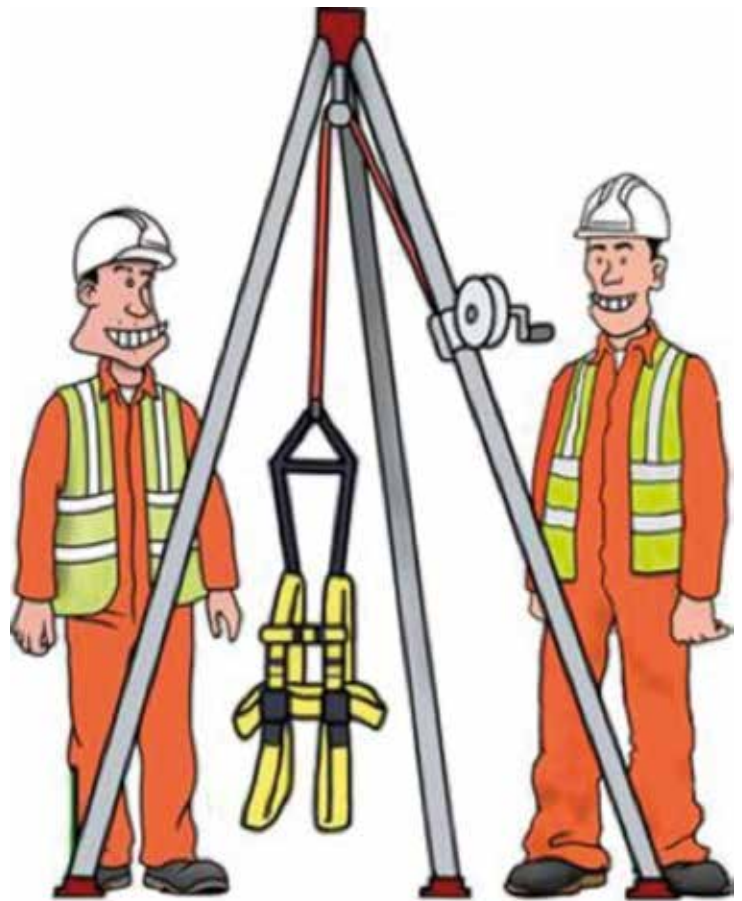
ALWAYS

Plan / discuss emergency escape routes; safety documents, equipment and personal protective equipment to be available or used, roles of responsible people during an emergency' and where necessary:

- Obtain a Permit to Enter.
- Test and trial the emergency procedure with everyone so that they know what to do.
- Any gas alarms or incidents must be reported to the Incident Line and Line Manager as soon as reasonably practicable following the event.

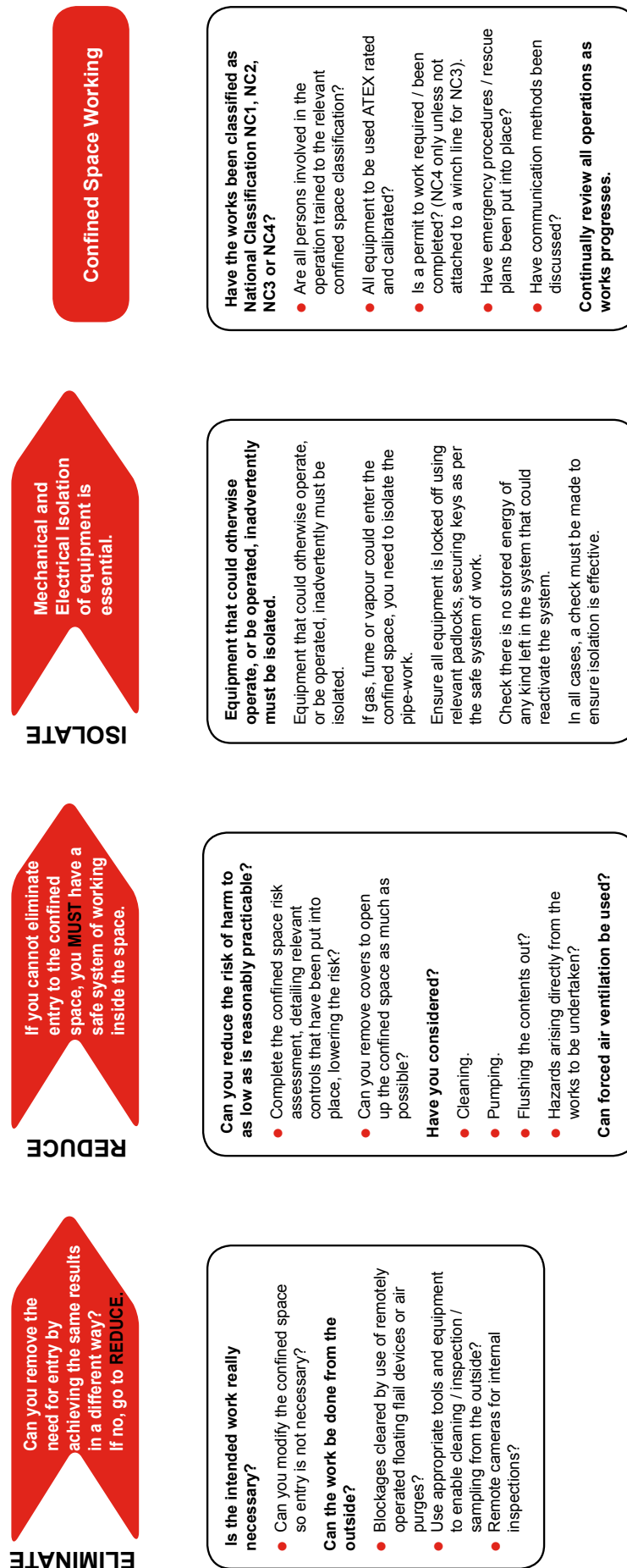
NEVER enter a confined space or enclosed area if you are:

- Not trained and competent.
- Lone working.
- Without the documentation being present, correct and fully completed.
- Without an approved gas monitor and planned escape routes.
- Using a mobile phone or other device.
- Smoking.



NEVER ENTER A CONFINED SPACE IF YOU ARE NOT TRAINED, COMPETENT AND AUTHORISED

Confined Space Hierarchy of Control



CONFINED SPACE CLASSIFICATION

Low Risk Confined Space

A low risk confined space exists where there is easy entry/exit and natural ventilation.

NC1 Classification

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.

No breathing apparatus required for low risk.



Medium Risk Confined Space

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

NC2 Classification

Vertical direct unobstructed access with continuous attachment to a person riding hoist or similar mechanical rescue device.

Escape Set (Self Rescue) breathing apparatus required to be taken into medium risk.

NC3 Classification

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 walls. Working without an attached rescue line and includes working away from the point of entry.

Escape Set (Self Rescue) breathing apparatus required to be taken into medium risk.

High Risk Confined Space

A high risk confined space exists when there is a specified hazard that cannot be controlled or eliminated.

NC4 Classification

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.

Full breathing apparatus (working) required to be worn at all times in high risk.

