F-JHG MS23: Confined Spaces

Scope of Works

Method of Work required to work safely in a confine space
Note: A Site-Specific POWRA shall be completed prior to commencement of works. The particular hazards associated with this task are documented in the library of Risk Assessments.
Note: The JHG supervisor must attend site, to issue a work permit and to supervise works.

Sequence of Works

- Park vehicle safely.
- Ensure that a HSEQ Manual is on site, together with complete job pack
- Check and ensure that all relevant site access permits, safety cards and paperwork is available on site and correct before commencement of works.
- Check and ensure that all plant and machinery are in good working order, have up to date certification and the operators have the compliant and in date licenses
- Check that client and relevant persons are informed and agree commencement date
- Check that all required materials are available and on site when required.
- Ensure that Briefing and Toolbox talk documents are available.
- Ensure that the site has been booked in to upon attendance (site provider requirement, check job pack)
- Check site for potential hazards and note on Safe System of Work Plan. Rectify if possible. Mark danger area & inform crew regarding potential hazard.
- Place emergency equipment (fire extinguisher & first aid kit) in designated area.
- Select an appropriate Traffic Management plan.
- Ensure that all PPE is available, has been checked and is in good working order prior to carrying out any activities.
- Ensure that all relevant and appropriate Health and Safety Barriers & traffic management signage are in place before commencement of work.
- Prior to commencing work, it must be confirmed that access permission has been granted and that a permit to work form has been filled out and signed by the JHG Supervisor.
- Remove the access plate/lid if applicable
- Assess the depth of the area of work and the size of the access. Examine the frame sides and ground, as well as the walls of the confined space and step irons etc as far, as is practical to do so.
- For CS Cat A entry further consultation with JHG HSEQ must be sought to establish level and complexity of required SSoW/RAMS
- The size of any access hole and shaft should be a minimum of 575mm. If the hole size is less than this stop work and inform your supervisor and await further instructions.
- Test the chamber for the presence of gas using procedure as described in F-JHG MS48 (Ensure Gas Detection Equipment is serviceable and calibrated)
- Turn on GDU and allow to warm up
- All tests are 2 bleeps / 2 flashes
- Lower a gas detector into the confined space. A deep chamber may require a rope to lower the detector. Leave for 5minutes. If toxic, flammable gas or oxygen deficiency is detected, wait 5minutes and test again. If there is still an alarm inform your supervisor and await further instructions.
- A winch harness and escape breathing apparatus may be needed. Emergency Procedures for confined spaces must be in place
- All operatives must have a current confined space certificate before entering any chamber
- Where required attach the lifeline and harness and commence to enter the confined space.

- The gas detector must be left on continuously whilst working in the confined space.
- While descending, the operator should check the walls and steps/Ladders for condition and security, reporting any defects.
- There must be at least one top man above with communication facilities
- If there is any risk of flooding, such as inclement weather, high water table, proximity to a reservoir or if the chamber is filled with or contains fast flowing water then the work should be aborted
- If the gas detector alarm sounds for any reason, the chamber must be evacuated immediately in accordance with Emergency Procedures If in doubt at all about the condition, contents or smells within a chamber, stop work and seek assistance immediately.

Plant & Equipment and Certification Required

Gas Detector, Lifeline, Winch Harness, & Tripod.
All plant & Equipment must be serviced, and/or calibrated to the requirement of legislation and the manufacture. Any electrical tools required will all be 110v in line with the current regulations.

Staff Involved and Certification Required

Only trained, competent authorised personnel shall be permitted to carry out works. All Construction workers must have the required basic legislative health and safety training and Manual Handling Training. Each crew collectively should have a combined training of:

- Sign, lighting and guarding,
- 1st aid training
- Confine Space training

Access and Egress Points

Only permitted access/egress points will be used. Vehicles will be parked in a suitable location, causing no obstruction to the site provider/ or adjoining users. Any directions / instructions issued by the site provider, as detailed in the site survey will be adhered to.

Interface with Public

Access is generally arranged by the office and arrangements conveyed to the PICW. All required third party notification / procedures will be addressed by the P.I.C.W. Work area will be cordoned off to prevent unauthorized access. Appropriate signage will be erected.

Signage:

A Traffic Management Plan will be completed prior to work commencement & a traffic management plan set up on site including Traffic Management Signage & Barriers. The traffic management plan is a way of planning and ensuring road users can move safely through/around the site while at the same time keeping construction workers safe.

Working hours

Normal Working Hours will be 08.00-17.00. Where an emergency Call out is required the working hours may be altered to suit the Client requirements to be agreed by JHG Supervisor.

PPE

Safety Boots, Helmet, Gloves, Hi Viz Clothing

Rescue –

For a **Cat A CS entry** a full rescue plan is to be developed and implemented and it is recommended that this function is undertaken by a fully qualified rescue team.

For a **Cat B CS entry** the level of rescue equipment and plan is to be assessed prior to accessing the location determined by but not exhaustive of the following –

- Hazards within the space including those which could affect safe access/egress
- Dimensions/depth of the space
- Pre-existing conditions and provision of existing services/components (e.g. integrated fixed climbing steps, any damage to structure)
- Evaluation of hazardous atmosphere (flammable, oxygen deficient).

The assessment will also determine if self-rescue is feasible (operative able to egress space unaided in event of emergency) or whether a co-worker (attendant) will be required to assist with egress.

As a minimum an attendant will always be in attendance, however they are not precluded from performing other duties outside the enclosed space if these duties do not distract the attendant from:

- Monitoring employees within the space
- Ensuring that it is safe for employees to enter and exit the space.

Each employee who enters an enclosed space or who serves as an attendant shall be trained in the relevant category of Confined space entry and rescue, including use of relevant PPE.
As a minimum operatives entering **Cat B CS entry** shall be provided with the following equipment to ensure the prompt and safe rescue of employees from the enclosed space – **Tripod/Winch & harness**