

CLEANING IN CONFINED SPACES

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Lift pits, sumps and building voids · avoid entry first · gas and water · top person · rescue ready

KD-RA-LG-003 Rev A0

Statutory basis: Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 regs 4(1) and 4(2) for avoiding entry and the safe system of work, and reg 5 for rescue arrangements, with ACOP L101 (3rd edition, 2014); COSHH 2002 for hydrogen sulphide and other gases, cleaning chemicals, biological contamination and exhaust fume; PUWER 1998 reg 19 for the means of isolating pumps and plant; Work at Height Regulations 2005 for access into pits; Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15. This document is the recorded safe system of work required by HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Cleaning out confined spaces in buildings — lift pits, internal sumps and pump pits, crawl spaces, underfloor and service voids, and enclosed plant spaces — where the space, or the cleaning itself, creates a foreseeable risk of fire or explosion, loss of consciousness from heat, gas, fume, vapour or lack of oxygen, or drowning; removing debris, water and silt, with rescue arrangements in place before anyone enters.

This document does not cover: entry into manholes, chambers, draw pits, service tunnels and ducts for inspection, connection, repair or cleaning (KD-RA-GW-002), cold water storage tank cleaning (KD-RAMS-WH-002), ductwork internal cleaning and fuel tanks (specialist), and any lift pit the lift contractor has not made safe.

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Entering when the space could be cleaned from outside

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Supervisor records why the space cannot be cleaned from outside — long-handled tools, suction hoses, pumps lowered from the opening and camera inspection tried first; entry only where the purpose cannot reasonably be achieved without it (Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 reg 4(1)).

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Hydrogen sulphide, other gases, fume or lack of oxygen — loss of consciousness

At risk: Operatives inside

Controls: Drainage-connected sumps and pump pits can hold hydrogen sulphide: gas test before entry, recorded on the Gas Test & Atmospheric Monitoring Record, and a personal gas monitor worn by everyone inside throughout; no engines, generators or engine pumps inside or near the opening; chemicals used inside only where the COSHH assessment allows; forced ventilation where assessed; anyone dizzy, headachy or breathless, or any monitor alarm — everyone out.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Drowning or entrapment from water rising in pits and sumps

At risk: Operatives inside

Controls: Pumps and float switches isolated at their means of isolation (PUWER 1998 reg 19) and, as site practice, locked off with the key held by the person entering; incoming drains and supplies closed off; weather checked; everyone out the moment water starts to rise.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Lift car or counterweight moving over a lift pit

At risk: Operatives in the pit

Controls: No entry until the lift contractor has isolated and secured the lift and handed the pit over in writing; the lift contractor's safe-access procedure governs entry and handback.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Heat build-up in enclosed plant spaces and voids

At risk: Operatives inside

Controls: Hot spaces worked in the coolest part of the day with heat sources isolated where possible; breaks outside the space with drinking water.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Nobody able to get a collapsed person out

At risk: Operatives inside

Controls: Rescue arrangements ready before entry (Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 reg 5): a trained top person at the opening throughout, in constant contact and never entering; a means of getting a casualty out that suits the space; first-aid kit and, where the assessment foresees the need, resuscitation equipment at the opening; the rescue talked through before the first entry.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

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7. Falls into pits and sumps

At risk: Operatives

Controls: Openings barriered while open; access by a secured ladder or fixed rungs checked before use; tools and waste passed in buckets on a line.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

8. Contaminated silt, droppings, needles and broken glass

At risk: Operatives inside

Controls: Silt and debris treated as contaminated: waterproof coveralls, gauntlets and eye protection; cuts covered; debris lifted with scoops, never by unsighted hand; RPE to the COSHH assessment where dried droppings or dust are present; washing before breaks; leptospirosis card carried.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

9. Electric shock from lighting and tools in wet spaces

At risk: Operatives inside

Controls: Battery or SELV lighting and tools only inside wet spaces; 110 V equipment and transformers kept outside the space; no leads in water.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL H/...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- Supervisor records why the space cannot be cleaned from outside, after trying external methods first.
- Obtain the confined space entry permit; for a lift pit, the lift contractor's written handover of a safe pit.
- Isolate pumps, float switches, water and power at their means of isolation; lock off, keys with the person entering.
- Set up at the opening: barriers, secured ladder, ventilation where required, battery or SELV equipment inside, engines well away.
- Gas test before entry and record it; issue personal gas monitors; no entry on an adverse or doubtful reading.
- Brief the rescue — top person, communication, casualty extraction, first aid, emergency call — and talk it through.
- Enter with the fewest people needed; the top person stays at the opening throughout.
- Remove debris and silt with scoops, wet vacuum or bucket and line.
- Everyone out at once on any symptom, monitor alarm, rising water, loss of contact or failed ventilation.
- Everyone out and counted; equipment out; covers or barriers back.
- Remove isolations only when the space is clear and closed; hand a lift pit back to the lift contractor.
- Wash, dispose of the waste by the site route, and close the entry on the permit.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

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5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

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|--|--|
| Gas detector and personal gas monitors | Secured ladder, buckets and lines |
| Wet vacuum and submersible pump worked from outside the space | Casualty extraction equipment suited to the space; first-aid kit |
| Battery or SELV lighting; 110 V transformers outside the space | |

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS

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COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

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6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

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|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| Head protection | Gloves — task-rated | Waterproof coveralls, gauntlets and eye protection |
| Safety footwear | Eye protection | RPE to the COSHH assessment |
| High visibility | Hearing protection | |

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

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7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-CS-004 — Confined Space Entry Permit
Every entry made under this document.

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-SYS-GT-017 — Gas Test & Atmospheric Monitoring Record
Before entry and throughout it.

PERMIT NUMBER

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION

NEAREST A&E

ASSEMBLY POINT

HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED

EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA

SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-09-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-09-11	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.