

Authorised Entrant and Standby Person (AESP)

Introduction

Confined spaces are high-risk environments where a single mistake can lead to serious injury or fatality. This program equips participants with the knowledge, skills, and judgment required to perform safely as an Authorised Entrant or Standby Person.

Grounded in Malaysian legal requirements and industry best practices, this program combines technical understanding with hands-on application to ensure participants are competent, confident, and accountable when working in confined spaces.

Program Objectives

By the end of this program, participants will be able to:

- Understand and interpret legal requirements related to confined space work
- Recognise and assess hazards associated with confined spaces
- Apply safe entry procedures correctly and systematically
- Select and use appropriate PPE and related safety equipment
- Perform the duties and responsibilities of an Authorised Entrant and Standby Person effectively
- Demonstrate competency through practical application and assessment

Learning Outcomes

Participants will leave the program able to:

- Explain key provisions under relevant occupational safety legislation
- Identify atmospheric, physical, mechanical, and operational hazards in confined spaces
- Conduct pre-entry checks and follow permit-to-work procedures
- Demonstrate correct use of gas detectors, ventilation systems, PPE, and emergency equipment
- Execute confined space entry and standby responsibilities with clarity and discipline
- Respond appropriately during emergency situations

Who Should Attend

This program is designed for:

- Workers involved in confined space operations
- Personnel assigned as Authorised Entrants
- Personnel appointed as Standby Persons
- Supervisors overseeing confined space activities

Entry Requirement:

Participants must be able to read, write, and communicate in Malay or English.

Methodology

This program includes:

- Facilitated discussions
- Case-based learning
- Equipment demonstrations
- Guided practical exercises
- Scenario simulations
- Oral and practical competency assessment

Participants are required to bring their own PPE (Safety Helmet, Safety Boots, Working Uniform) for practical sessions.

Day 1

Session 1: Legal Framework and Duty of Care in Confined Spaces

This opening session positions confined space work as a high-risk professional responsibility, not just a technical task. Participants are introduced to real confined space incidents in industrial settings such as tanks, silos, manholes, and process vessels, highlighting how preventable errors led to fatalities. The session explains the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994, the Factories and Machinery Act 1967, and the Industry Code of Practice for Safe Working in a Confined Space. Clear emphasis is placed on employer duties, employee responsibilities, and the legal consequences of non-compliance.

Session 2: Understanding Confined Space Hazards

Participants explore the full range of hazards present in confined spaces. This includes atmospheric dangers such as oxygen deficiency, toxic gases, and flammable vapours, as well as physical hazards like engulfment, mechanical movement, heat stress, and restricted entry or exit. The session focuses on early hazard recognition, understanding warning signs, and preventing incidents before entry occurs.

Session 3: Entry Procedures and Permit-to-Work System

This session walks participants through the structured process of confined space entry. Topics include permit-to-work requirements, isolation and lockout procedures, gas testing protocols, ventilation controls, communication planning, and emergency readiness. Participants learn why each step exists and how skipping one control can lead to escalation. The focus is procedural discipline and accountability.

Session 4: Equipment Use and Demonstration

Participants are introduced to confined space equipment in practical terms, including gas detectors, ventilation systems, PPE, retrieval systems, and emergency response equipment. Demonstrations reinforce correct inspection, setup, and usage. The session clarifies the difference between having equipment available and using it correctly.

Day 2

Session 5: Roles and Responsibilities of Authorised Entrant and Standby Person

This session clarifies the distinct duties of the Authorised Entrant and the Standby Person. Participants examine communication protocols, monitoring responsibilities, behavioural discipline, and escalation procedures. The importance of active standby supervision rather than passive observation is emphasised.

Session 6: Practical Entry Simulation

Participants apply what they have learned through supervised practical exercises. They conduct pre-entry checks, perform atmospheric testing, complete permit documentation, and simulate confined space entry. Roles are rotated to ensure participants experience both Entrant and Standby responsibilities.

Session 7: Emergency Response and Incident Management

This session integrates emergency response principles into confined space operations. Participants discuss response triggers, rescue considerations, communication breakdown scenarios, and the limits of intervention. The focus is on preventing secondary casualties and maintaining control under pressure.

Session 8: Competency Assessment and Validation

The program concludes with oral and practical assessments to verify understanding and applied competence. Participants demonstrate correct procedures, equipment handling, and role execution. Feedback is provided to reinforce safe practices and correct operational gaps.