



Confined Spaces

GORDON SMITH CFFOH

H & S Law

- ▶ "It shall be the duty of every employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his employees." [HSWAct s.2]
- ▶ "It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not thereby exposed to risks to their health or safety." [HSWAct s.3]

Confined Spaces

- ▶ What is a Confined Space?
- ▶ RA & MS
- ▶ Pre-planning?
- ▶ Working in a Confined Space
 - ▶ Before & during
 - ▶ Recovery procedures



Confined Spaces

What is a Confined Space?

Definition (HSE):

“confined space” means any place, including any chamber, tank, vat, silo, pit, trench, pipe, sewer, flue, well or other space in which, by virtue of its enclosed nature, there arises a **reasonably foreseeable specific risk**

Confined Spaces

- ▶ **Must be:**

- ▶ Substantially enclosed

AND

- ▶ One or more specified risks present or foreseeable

Confined Spaces



Q1. Is the space substantially or totally enclosed?

YES or NO

Confined Spaces

Q2. Is there a risk of one or more of...

- a. Serious injury due to asphyxiation
- b. Loss of consciousness due to increased body temperature
- c. Loss of consciousness/asphyxiation from gas, fume, vapour or low oxygen
- d. Drowning from increased liquid level
- e. Asphyxiation from free flowing solid (or trapped by same)

Confined Spaces



Q3. Will the work in that space **introduce** one or more of these risks?

YES or NO

Risk Assessment

- ▶ CoSHH, Noise etc + Confined Spaces
 - ▶ Hierarchy of control
 - ▶ Risk assessment – C-S specific
 - ▶ Method Statement – task specific
 - ▶ Training
 - ▶ Medical assessment
 - ▶ Evacuation & Rescue

Ventilation including LEV

- ▶ Supply clean air
- ▶ Extract contaminated air
- ▶ Universal mixing
- ▶ Localised extraction

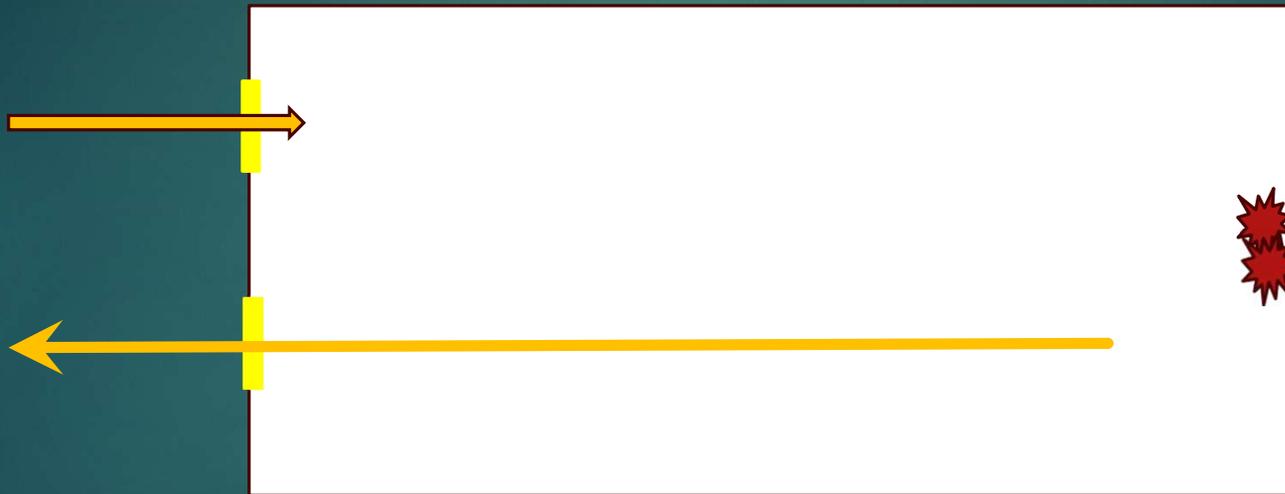
Confined Spaces – ventilation 'Rules'

- ▶ 1. Overall negative pressure
- ▶ 2. Exhaust at a suitable distance
- ▶ 3. Measured clearance time
- ▶ 4. Extract close to source

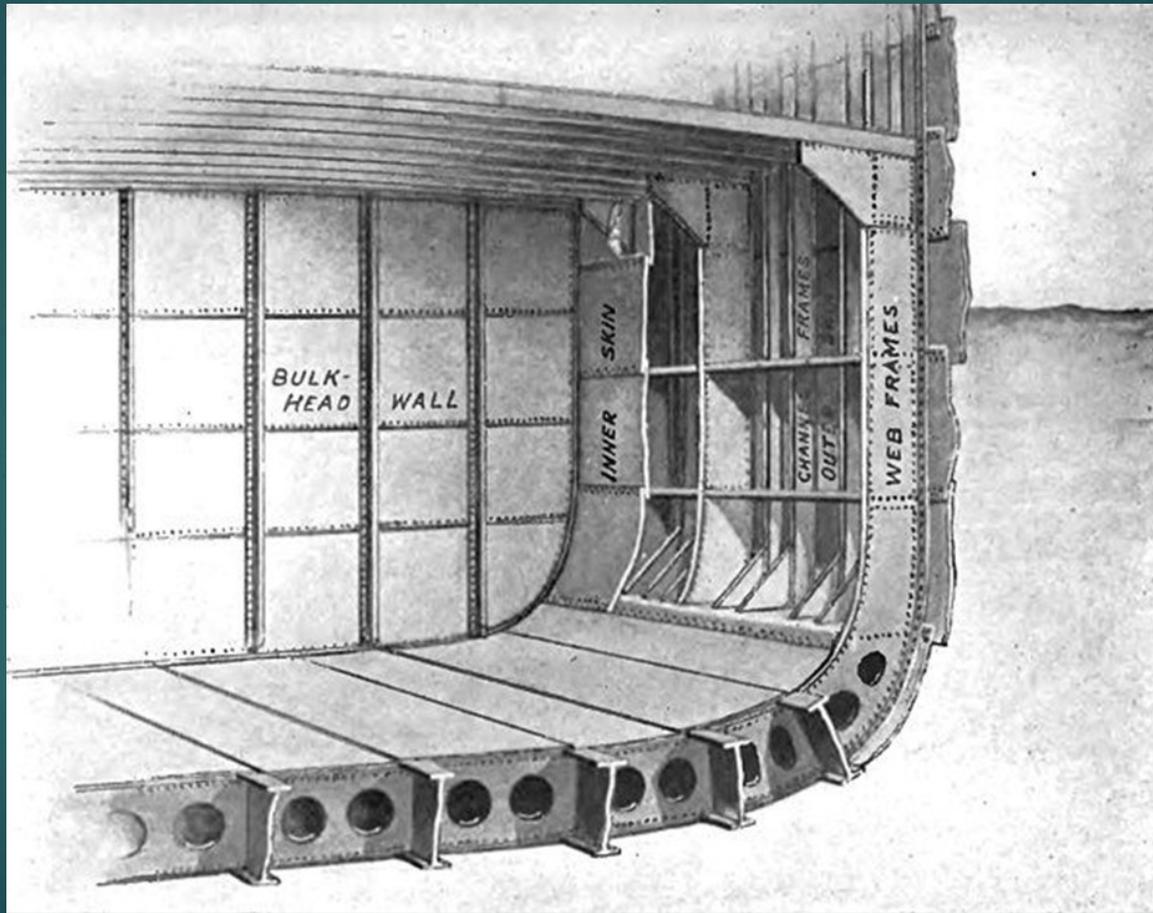
Practical issues

- ▶ Single entry/exit point
- ▶ Source of contaminant
- ▶ Irregular shapes & dimensions
- ▶ Increasing concentration

Dual-entry - painting



Double bottom – marine vessel



Testing & Reporting

- ▶ Format
- ▶ Content
- ▶ Procedures
- ▶ Intermediate/continuous checks
- ▶ Frequency
- ▶ Reporting

Training



- ▶ Practical
 - ▶ Legal requirements
 - ▶ Hazards & Risks
 - ▶ Planning – RAMS
 - ▶ Equipment
 - ▶ Practical exercises
- ▶ Approved

Confined Spaces

ANY QUESTIONS?