

ICTQual AB



Qualification Specification

ICTQual AB Level 2 Award in Work in Confined Space



Website
www.ictqualab.co.uk

Email:
support@ictqualab.co.uk

ICTQual AB's

Level 2 Award in Work in Confined Space

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Qualification Specification about

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About ICTQual AB's

ICTQual AB is a distinguished awarding body based in the United Kingdom, dedicated to fostering excellence in education, training, and skills development. Committed to global standards, ICTQual AB's provides internationally recognized qualifications that empower individuals and organizations to thrive in an increasingly competitive world. Their offerings span diverse industries, including technical fields, health and safety, management, and more, ensuring relevance and adaptability to modern workforce needs.

ICTQual AB's delivers high-quality educational solutions through a network of Approved Training Centres worldwide. Their robust standards and innovative teaching methodologies equip learners with practical knowledge and skills for personal and professional growth. With a mission to inspire lifelong learning and drive positive change, ICTQual AB's continuously evolves its programs to stay ahead of industry trends and technological advancements.

Course Overview

The ICTQual Level 2 Award in Work in Confined Space is designed to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and procedures required to work safely in confined spaces. Expanding on Level 1 training, this qualification develops a clear understanding of hazards associated with confined spaces, such as restricted access, poor ventilation, and the potential presence of harmful gases or substances. Learners gain practical competence in conducting risk assessments, implementing control measures, and using specialized equipment including gas detectors, ventilation systems, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

This award emphasizes occupational competence, enabling learners to complete well-defined confined space tasks, take responsibility for their actions, and exercise judgement under guidance. Effective communication and teamwork are central, ensuring coordination with attendants and supervisors during operations. Emergency preparedness, including basic rescue support and evacuation procedures, is also covered, allowing participants to respond confidently to incidents.

By completing this qualification, learners demonstrate the ability to carry out confined space duties safely, efficiently, and independently in routine and some non-routine situations. It supports career development in industries such as construction, oil and gas, utilities, and manufacturing, while providing a foundation for higher-level safety and supervisory roles.

Objectives:

- Develop understanding of confined space hazards, including restricted access, poor ventilation, and presence of harmful substances.
- Enable learners to conduct risk assessments and apply appropriate control measures to minimize hazards.
- Provide practical skills for safe entry, work, and emergency procedures within confined spaces.
- Promote effective communication and teamwork during confined space operations.
- Build confidence in responding to incidents and supporting basic emergency evacuation or rescue procedures.

Aims:

- To ensure learners can perform well-defined confined space tasks with safety and competence.
- To prepare participants to take responsibility for their actions and exercise judgement under supervision.
- To enhance occupational competence in a variety of routine and some non-routine confined space scenarios.
- To support career progression by providing a recognized qualification relevant to industries with confined space operations.

Targeted Audience:

This qualification is suitable for:

- Workers in construction, oil and gas, utilities, and manufacturing industries.
- Individuals who have completed Level 1 confined space training and wish to advance their knowledge.
- Employees seeking formal recognition of competence in confined space work.
- Those preparing for supervisory or specialized safety roles within operational environments.

Certification Framework

Qualification title	ICTQual AB Level 2 Award in Work in Confined Space
Course ID	HSE0017
Total Qualification Time	10 Hours
Guided Learning Hours	5 Hours
Grading Type	Pass / Fail
Competency Evaluation	Coursework / Assignments / Verifiable Experience
Assessment	The assessment and verification process for ICTQual AB's qualifications involves two key stages: Internal Assessment and Verification: ✓ Conducted by the staff at the Approved Training Centre (ATC) to ensure learners meet the required standards through continuous assessments. ✓ Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) is carried out by the centre's IQA staff to validate the assessment process. External Quality Assurance: ✓ Managed by ICTQual AB's verifiers, who periodically review the centre's assessment and IQA processes. Verifies that assessments are conducted to the required standards and ensures consistency across centres

Entry Requirements

The ICTQual Level 2 Award in work in confined space course welcomes participants from diverse backgrounds who meet specific entry requirements aimed at ensuring a conducive learning environment and optimal engagement.

- ✓ Participants must be at least 18 years old to enroll in the course.
- ✓ A fundamental understanding of reading, writing, and basic arithmetic is required. This ensures that participants can comprehend course materials, follow instructions, and complete any written assessments.
- ✓ Since working in confined spaces can be physically demanding, candidates should be in good health and physically fit. Some training providers might require a medical assessment or a declaration of fitness from a GP.
- ✓ A few providers may conduct a pre-assessment to gauge the candidate's suitability for the course, especially concerning their physical fitness and understanding of basic safety principles.
- ✓ Candidates might be required to bring their own PPE, such as safety boots, gloves, and helmets, depending on the training provider's policies.
- ✓ Proficiency in the language of instruction is essential. Participants should be able to understand and communicate effectively in the language used for teaching the course to grasp the technical terms and safety protocols discussed.

Qualification Structure

This qualification comprises 9 mandatory units. Candidates must successfully complete all mandatory units to achieve the qualification.

Mandatory Units	
Unit Ref#	Unit Title
HSE0017-01	Introduction to Confined Spaces
HSE0017-02	Legislation and Regulations
HSE0017-03	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
HSE0017-04	Safe Working Practices
HSE0017-05	Use of Safety Equipment
HSE0017-06	Emergency Procedures and Rescue Planning
HSE0017-07	Communication and Teamwork
HSE0017-08	Practical Skills Training
HSE0017-09	Assessment and Certification

Centre Requirements

To ensure quality training delivery, centres must adhere to the following standards:

1. Centre Approval

- ✓ Centres must be formally approved by ICTQual AB's before delivering this qualification.
- ✓ Approval involves a review of facilities, policies, and staff qualifications.

2. Qualified Staff

- ✓ **Tutors:** Must hold a recognized formal teaching qualification, possess verifiable occupational competence in medium to high-risk confined space operations, hold a relevant subject-matter qualification at Level 3 or above, and maintain up-to-date continuous professional development (CPD) regarding current industry safety and rescue protocols.
- ✓ **Assessors:** Must hold a recognized assessor qualification (e.g., CAVA, AVRA) or equivalent)
- ✓ **Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs):** Must hold a recognized IQA qualification (e.g. Level 4 Award in the IQA and Level 4 Certificate in Leading the IQA) and experience to oversee assessment standards.

3. Learning Facilities

Centre must offer:

- ✓ Private study areas and internet-enabled workspaces (for blended or physical delivery)
- ✓ Academic and pastoral support for learners
- ✓ Administrative support must be available to manage enrolment, tracking, and learner queries efficiently

4. Health and Safety Compliance

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- ✓ All training facilities must comply with health and safety regulations.
- ✓ Centres must conduct regular risk assessments for practical activities.

5. Learning Resources

- ✓ **Course Materials:** Approved textbooks, study guides, and digital content must align with the qualification standards.
- ✓ **Assessment Tools:** Templates and guidelines must be provided to ensure standardized evaluation processes.
- ✓ **E-Learning Support:** Centres offering online or blended learning must implement an effective Learning Management System (LMS).

6. Assessment and Quality Assurance

- ✓ Centres must ensure assessments meet ICTQual AB's competency standards.
- ✓ Internal quality assurance (IQA) must be conducted to maintain consistency.
- ✓ External verifiers from ICTQual AB's will review assessment and training practices.

7. Learning Support

- ✓ **Qualification Guidance:** Support for coursework and assignments.
- ✓ **Career Pathway Assistance:** Information on progression opportunities in confined space operations sectors.
- ✓ **Accessibility Support:** Accommodations for learners with disabilities or language barriers.

8. Policies and Compliance

Centres must uphold the following policies in accordance with ICTQual AB's standards:

- ✓ Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.
- ✓ Health and Safety Policy.
- ✓ Safeguarding and Learner Protection Policy.
- ✓ Complaints and Appeals Procedure.
- ✓ Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy.

9. Reporting Requirements

- Centres must provide ICTQual AB's with regular reports on learner registrations, progress, and certification outcomes.
- Assessment records must be maintained for external auditing and quality assurance purposes.

Support for Candidates

Centres should ensure that materials developed to support candidates:

- ✓ Facilitate tracking of achievements as candidate's progress through the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
- ✓ Include information on how and where ICTQual AB's policies and procedures can be accessed.
- ✓ Provide mechanisms for Internal and External Quality Assurance staff to verify and authenticate evidence effectively.

This approach ensures transparency, supports candidates' learning journeys, and upholds quality assurance standards.

Assessment

This qualification is competence-based, requiring candidates to demonstrate proficiency as defined in the qualification units. The assessment evaluates the candidate's skills, knowledge, and understanding against the set standards. Key details include:

1. Assessment Process:

- ✓ Must be conducted by an experienced and qualified assessor.
- ✓ Candidates compile a portfolio of evidence that satisfies all learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each unit.

2. Types of Evidence:

- ✓ Observation reports by the assessor.
- ✓ Assignments, projects, or reports.
- ✓ Professional discussions.
- ✓ Witness testimonies.
- ✓ Candidate-produced work.
- ✓ Worksheets.
- ✓ Records of oral and written questioning.
- ✓ Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

3. Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria:

- ✓ **Learning Outcomes:** Define what candidates should know, understand, or accomplish upon completing the unit.
- ✓ **Assessment Criteria:** Detail the standards candidates must meet to demonstrate that the learning outcomes have been achieved.

This framework ensures rigorous and consistent evaluation of candidates' competence in line with the qualification's objectives.

Unit Descriptors

HSE0017-01- Introduction to Confined Spaces

Learners gain knowledge of confined spaces, their characteristics, and associated hazards. The unit covers access restrictions, environmental conditions, and potential risks. Participants develop awareness of safe working practices, basic procedures, and occupational responsibilities. It builds foundational understanding necessary to identify hazards, assess situations, and prepare for safe operations within confined space environments.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Understand the definition and characteristics of confined spaces.	1.1 Define a "confined space" in plain language and explain why it is difficult to work in. 1.2 Identify three main features of a confined space, such as poor ventilation or restricted entry and exit. 1.3 Explain the difference between a normal small room and a high-risk confined space like a storage tank.
2. Identify different types of confined spaces across various industries.	2.1 Give three examples of confined spaces found in the construction and engineering sectors. 2.2 Identify specific confined spaces in the water or sewage industry (e.g., sewers or manholes). 2.3 List confined spaces commonly found in manufacturing, such as boilers, silos, or deep pits.
3. Recognize the unique hazards associated with confined spaces.	3.1 List three major hazards specific to confined spaces, such as gas buildup, fire, or flooding. 3.2 Describe how low oxygen levels (Oxygen Deficiency) can affect a worker's body and mind. 3.3 Identify physical hazards like falling objects, moving machinery, or getting trapped by loose materials.

HSE0017-02- Legislation and Regulations

This unit introduces relevant health and safety legislation, standards, and workplace regulations related to confined space operations. Learners interpret legal requirements, employer responsibilities, and safety duties. The unit ensures understanding of compliance obligations, promoting safe practices, risk mitigation, and accountability. Participants develop the knowledge to work within legal frameworks while maintaining operational safety.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Comprehend the relevant health and safety legislation governing confined spaces.	1.1 Name the primary law or regulation that governs safety in confined spaces. 1.2 State the main purpose of these regulations and why they must be followed. 1.3 Identify the specific conditions under which a space is legally classified as "confined."
2. Understand the legal responsibilities of employers and employees in ensuring safety in confined spaces.	2.1 List three legal duties of an employer, such as providing training and safety equipment. 2.2 List three legal duties of an employee, such as following safety instructions and reporting risks. 2.3 Explain the legal importance of reporting accidents or "near-misses" at the workplace.
3. Apply knowledge of regulations to real-world scenarios to ensure compliance.	3.1 Identify a safety violation in a simple workplace story based on the law. 3.2 Explain why checking a "Method Statement" is a legal requirement before starting work. 3.3 Describe the consequences for a worker or company that fails to follow safety regulations.

HSE0017-03- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Learners identify common hazards in confined spaces, including environmental, chemical, and physical risks. The unit covers methods for evaluating risks, applying control measures, and prioritizing safety actions. Participants develop competence in gathering relevant information, interpreting potential threats, and implementing practical measures to minimize risk, ensuring safe and compliant confined space operations.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Identify common hazards found in confined spaces, including toxic atmospheres, flammable gases, and physical obstructions.	1.1 Name three toxic or flammable gases (e.g., H2S or Methane) often found in confined spaces. 1.2 Identify hazards that can enter from the outside, such as sudden water leaks or chemical spills. 1.3 Recognize electrical risks or mechanical dangers from moving parts inside the space.
2. Conduct thorough risk assessments to identify and evaluate potential risks.	2.1 Use a basic checklist to record all possible hazards before the work begins. 2.2 Estimate the "risk level" by deciding how likely an accident is and how bad the injury could be. 2.3 Identify specific groups of people who might be at higher risk during a task.
3. Develop and implement effective risk mitigation strategies to minimize hazards.	3.1 Suggest a way to clear bad air from a space, such as using mechanical fans (ventilation). 3.2 Choose the correct control measure (like wearing a harness) to stop a worker from falling. 3.3 Check the work area to confirm that the risks have been lowered enough to start the job.

HSE0017-04- Safe Working Practices

This unit focuses on procedures and practices for safe confined space work. Learners explore entry protocols, task planning, monitoring, and maintaining safety standards. Emphasis is placed on personal responsibility, situational awareness, and routine checks. Participants develop practical and cognitive skills to complete tasks safely, addressing routine challenges and ensuring compliance with workplace safety policies

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Understand and implement permit-to-work systems for controlled entry into confined spaces.	1.1 Explain why a "Permit to Work" is a necessary document for high-risk entry. 1.2 Correctly fill in the essential parts of a permit, including entry times and gas test results. 1.3 Demonstrate how to formally "close" a permit once the work is finished and the team is out.
2. Apply isolation and Lockout-Tagout (LOTO) procedures to ensure equipment and systems are safely isolated.	2.1 Identify which valves or power switches must be shut off to make the space safe. 2.2 Demonstrate how to attach a safety lock and a warning tag to an energy source. 2.3 Perform a test to verify that the equipment is fully isolated and cannot be turned on accidentally.
3. Demonstrate safe working practices specific to confined space environments.	3.1 Follow the step-by-step "Safe Entry Sequence" as taught in training. 3.2 Maintain a clean work area to prevent tripping and ensure a fast exit path. 3.3 Use a rope or pulley system to lower tools instead of carrying them while climbing.

HSE0017-05- Use of Safety Equipment

Learners are trained in selecting, inspecting, and using personal protective equipment (PPE) and specialized tools such as gas detectors and ventilation systems. The unit emphasizes correct application, maintenance, and limitations of equipment. Participants develop competence to apply practical skills safely, make informed equipment choices, and support overall confined space safety operations.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Select, use, and maintain appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for confined space work.	1.1 Select and justify the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for specific confined space tasks and environmental hazards. 1.2 Demonstrate the correct fitting, adjustment, and securement of a full-body safety harness in accordance with manufacturer guidelines. 1.3 Conduct and record a comprehensive pre-use inspection of safety equipment to identify damage, wear, or mechanical defects.
2. Operate atmospheric testing and monitoring equipment to assess and ensure a safe working environment.	2.1 Perform pre-use functionality checks on atmospheric monitoring equipment, verifying battery integrity and sensor calibration status. 2.2 Demonstrate the correct procedure for multi-level atmospheric testing (stratified sampling at top, middle, and bottom levels) prior to entry. 2.3 Detail the immediate emergency actions and evacuation protocols required upon the activation of a gas monitor alarm.
3. Understand the limitations and proper use of safety equipment.	3.1 State how long a standard "Escape Breathing Set" will provide air during an emergency. 3.2 Identify things that could make a gas monitor fail, such as a blocked sensor or low battery. 3.3 Explain why tools used in gas-filled areas must be "intrinsically safe" (non-sparking).

HSE0017-06- Emergency Procedures and Rescue Planning

This unit covers emergency preparedness, including evacuation procedures, rescue planning, and basic first aid principles. Learners understand their role during incidents, how to respond to hazards, and coordinate with rescue teams. Participants develop skills to anticipate risks, apply structured emergency responses, and support safe recovery in routine and non-routine confined space situations.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Develop and implement comprehensive emergency response plans for confined space incidents.	1.1 Identify the specific roles of the "Top Person" and the rescue team during an emergency. 1.2 List the emergency equipment that must be ready at the entrance (e.g., stretcher, air sets). 1.3 Describe the specific alarm or signal used to tell everyone to evacuate immediately.
2. Execute effective rescue techniques, including the use of retrieval systems and first aid.	2.1 Set up and use a rescue tripod and winch to lift a person out of a hole. 2.2 Demonstrate how to safely move an unconscious person into a rescue stretcher. 2.3 Apply basic first aid, such as checking for a pulse and breathing, after a rescue.
3. Understand the importance of regular drills and preparedness for emergencies.	3.1 Explain why practicing rescue drills helps the team stay calm and work faster. 3.2 Identify one lesson learned from a recent practice drill to improve safety. 3.3 Describe how often rescue equipment should be inspected and tested.

HSE0017-07- Communication and Teamwork

Learners explore the importance of effective communication, coordination, and collaboration in confined space operations. The unit covers methods to convey instructions, share safety information, and work efficiently within a team. Participants develop interpersonal and occupational skills to support safe operations, ensuring all tasks are completed responsibly, with clarity and adherence to safety standards.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Apply effective communication techniques specific to confined space environments, including the use of radios and hand signals.	1.1 Use a two-way radio to give clear and short updates to the supervisor. 1.2 Demonstrate the use of hand signals or "line signals" (pulling a rope) when it is too noisy to talk. 1.3 Confirm that a message was received and understood by repeating the instructions back.
2. Understand and fulfill the roles and responsibilities of each team member when working in confined spaces.	2.1 Describe the duty of the "Standby Person" (Top Man) to stay at the entry point at all times. 2.2 Explain the duty of the "Entrant" to leave the space immediately if told to do so. 2.3 Identify who has the final authority to stop work if they see a new danger.
3. Demonstrate the importance of teamwork in ensuring safety and efficiency in confined space operations.	3.1 Perform a "Buddy Check" to ensure a teammate's gear is fitted correctly. 3.2 Share important safety information during a team "Toolbox Talk." 3.3 Support teammates by staying alert and ready to help during the entire shift.

HSE0017-08- Practical Skills Training

This unit focuses on applying knowledge through hands-on confined space tasks. Learners practice entry, monitoring, hazard control, and safe work procedures under supervision. Emphasis is placed on competence, responsibility, and adherence to safety protocols. Participants develop confidence in performing routine and some non-routine confined space duties, exercising judgement and ensuring operational safety.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Apply theoretical knowledge to practical exercises in real-life scenarios.	1.1 Establish and secure a safe work perimeter using appropriate barriers and warning signage. 1.2 Complete and verify a pre-entry safety checklist prior to authorizing access. 1.3 Select and verify the suitability of intrinsically safe tools and equipment for the specific environment.
2. Perform simulated confined space entries and rescues to reinforce safe working practices.	2.1 Demonstrate safe entry and egress procedures utilizing appropriate access equipment and fall protection systems (e.g., harnesses and lifelines). 2.2 Execute a prompt and controlled emergency evacuation in response to a simulated environmental alarm. 2.3 Participate in a coordinated team rescue operation, successfully utilizing designated retrieval equipment (e.g., tripods and winches) to extract a simulated casualty.
3. Demonstrate proficiency in the practical aspects of working in confined spaces.	3.1 Perform all assigned confined space tasks in full compliance with established safe systems of work and the permit-to-work. 3.2 Conduct correct post-operation procedures, including the cleaning, inspection, and secure storage of all PPE and safety equipment. 3.3 Comply with all instructions from the designated supervisor and maintain clear, effective communication throughout the duration of the practical exercise.

HSE0017-09- Assessment and Certification

Learners demonstrate knowledge and practical competence through assessments covering confined space hazards, procedures, and emergency response. The unit evaluates understanding of legislation, risk management, equipment use, and teamwork. Successful participants receive formal recognition, confirming their ability to perform confined space duties safely and responsibly, supporting career progression and eligibility for higher-level safety qualifications.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Successfully complete written or oral assessments to demonstrate understanding of theoretical knowledge.	1.1 Demonstrate underpinning knowledge of confined space legislation, hazards, and safe systems of work through formal questioning. 1.2 Interpret and explain standard safety signage, gas monitor telemetry, and environmental readings. 1.3 Differentiate between compliant and non-compliant confined space safety procedures using visual evidence or scenario-based case studies.
2. Pass practical assessments to validate skills in simulated or controlled environments.	2.1 Independently operate, calibrate, and interpret atmospheric testing equipment within a simulated confined space environment. 2.2 Demonstrate the correct selection, fitting, and deployment of personal fall protection and rescue retrieval systems under direct observation. 2.3 Execute safe, controlled, and expedited emergency egress procedures under simulated high-pressure conditions.
3. Obtain certification, demonstrating competence in working safely in confined spaces.	3.1 Compile and present a valid, authenticated portfolio of evidence (e.g., training logbook) confirming the completion of all practical and theoretical unit requirements. 3.2 Conduct a self-reflective evaluation of personal performance during practical exercises, identifying specific actions for continuous improvement. 3.3 Evaluate how the achieved competence aligns with industry standards and supports safe working practices in real-world operational environments.

ICTQual AB

Yew Tree Avenue, Dagenham,

London East, United Kingdom RM10 7FN

+447441398083

support@ictqualab.co.uk | www.ictqualab.co.uk

[VisitOfficialWebpage](http://www.ictqualab.co.uk)

