

Operate breathing apparatus

MSMWHS216 Operate breathing apparatus

Course aim

This unit of competency covers the skills and knowledge required to operate and maintain breathing apparatus and equipment in an irrespirable atmosphere, as defined by the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1715:2009 Selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment.

This unit of competency applies to operators who are required to wear breathing apparatus because they are working:

- In a confined space
- In an oxygen deficient atmosphere
- With hazardous gases/vapours
- In other situations, requiring the wearing of breathing apparatus

Operators may also be required to wear breathing apparatus in emergency situations, however, this is not the prime focus of this unit.

This unit of competency applies to an individual working alone or as part of a team or group and working in liaison with other shift team members and the control room operator, as appropriate.

Course objectives

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

Demonstrate knowledge of:

- The effects of irrespirable atmospheres on the body and the need for protective equipment
- Operational testing, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and safe work practices when wearing breathing apparatus
- Characteristics, component parts, operation of compressed air breathing apparatus
- Breathing apparatus control
- Use of procedures, personal lines and tallies
- Entrapment procedures
- Pre-use tests and checks
- Communications while wearing breathing apparatus

Demonstrate skills in the following:

- Conduct pre-donning tests on breathing apparatus
- Determine the available working time from a breathing apparatus set
- Correctly don and operate breathing apparatus
- Correctly close, remove and clean breathing apparatus
- Identify hazards and apply control measures according to procedures
- Report faults and/or damage to breathing apparatus
- Communicate while using breathing apparatus

On successful completion students will be issued with:

Statement of Attainment in MSMWHS216 Operate breathing apparatus

Course prerequisite

No prerequisite is required for the completion of this course.

Course assessment

Students will be assessed to determine their competency in this course both theoretically and practically.

The theory assessment consists of multiple choice and short answer questions.

The practical assessment will require students to conduct pre-operational checks, don Equipment, enter a confined space, off the set and then service it in an actual or simulated confined space.

Course duration

8 hours over 1 day (Initial)

4 hours (Refresher)

(The times noted above includes a break.)

Where delivered as a refresher, the delivery time is reduced and assessment time remains the same.

Trainer ratio

10 students per trainer

Course location

Courses are primarily delivered at our facilities:

3M Australia,
93 Derby Street, Silverwater NSW
The Construction Training Centre,
460 Beaudesert Road, Salisbury QLD

However, courses can be delivered at your worksite if required. In this instance your employer will confirm there are suitable facilities on site to deliver the training.