

SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

Working in Confined Spaces — Safe Work Method Statement

■ SWMS required under WHS Regulation 2011, s.299 for high-risk construction work as defined in s.291

Business Name:	[Your Business Name]	ABN:	[Your ABN]
Contact Person:	[Contact Name]	Phone:	[Phone Number]
Site Address:	[Site Address — ACT]	Date:	18 July 2026
Document No:	SWMS-CONFINED-S-001	Revision:	1.0

■ Your business details are automatically pre-filled into every document at purchase

1. SCOPE OF WORK

Safe work procedures for plumbing work requiring entry into confined spaces including sewer manholes, pump stations, tanks, and valve chambers, fully compliant with AS/NZS 2865 and WHS confined space regulations.

High Risk Construction Work (s.291): Confined Space

Regulatory Reference: WHS Reg 2011, Reg 66 — confined spaces | WHS Reg 2011, Reg 67 — confined space entry permit | WHS Reg 2011, Reg 68 — risk assessment for confined spaces | WHS Reg 2011, Reg 74 — confined space emergency procedures

■ Each SWMS identifies the specific high-risk construction work category under WHS Reg 2011 s.291 that triggers the legal requirement for this document

2. SITE-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

The PCBU must assess and document site-specific factors before commencing work. Considerations include but are not limited to:

- Site access and egress routes
- Underground services (gas, water, electrical, telecommunications)
- Overhead power lines and obstructions
- Adjacent activities and interface risks
- Weather conditions and environmental factors
- Emergency routes and assembly points

3. TASK STEPS, HAZARDS & CONTROL MEASURES

■ Control measures follow the Hierarchy of Controls per WHS Reg 2011, Reg 36: Elimination → Substitution → Engineering → Administrative → PPE. Risk ratings use a 5×5 matrix aligned with AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009

The full document contains task-by-task hazards, risk ratings, and prescribed control measures. To protect document IP, this sample shows the structural depth only. Summary of what the full document contains:

Document Structure	Count
Task steps documented	5
Hazards identified across all steps	7
Control measures specified	21
Hierarchy-of-control levels covered	Administrative, Engineering, PPE
PPE items with AS/NZS standard references	6
Australian Standards referenced	4

■ Every hazard is mapped to its initial risk rating, control measures across the hierarchy, and a residual risk rating after controls are applied

4. PPE REQUIREMENTS

■ Every PPE item references the specific Australian Standard it must comply with — not just generic PPE categories

PPE Item	Australian Standard	Required
Full body harness with retrieval D-ring	AS/NZS 1891.1	Yes
Personal 4-gas monitor (O ₂ , LEL, H ₂ S, CO)	AS/NZS 60079.29.1	Yes
Emergency escape SCBA	AS/NZS 1716	Yes
Hard hat	AS/NZS 1801	Yes
Safety footwear	AS/NZS 2210.3	Yes
Safety glasses	AS/NZS 1337.1	Yes

5. REQUIRED LICENCES & COMPETENCIES

- Construction Induction Card (White Card) — required for all construction work under WHS Reg s.317; recognised in all states and territories
- Confined space entry training and atmospheric (gas) testing competency — WHS Reg Part 4.3
- Plumber's licence issued by your state or territory regulator
- Gasfitting licence issued by your state or territory regulator for work on gas mains or piping
- Verify current licence and competency requirements with your state or territory WHS regulator before commencing work.

6. TOOLS, EQUIPMENT & PLANT

- Confined space entry tripod and winch
- Forced ventilation fan and ducting
- 4-gas detector (calibrated)
- Communication system (intrinsically safe radio)
- Rescue retrieval line
- Lighting (intrinsically safe)
- Entry permit forms
- Lock-out/tag-out kit

All equipment must be inspected before use. Defective equipment must not be used.

7. LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

■ This section auto-populates with your state's specific WHS/OHS legislation. ACT shown here — Victoria references OHS Act 2004 Reg 327, Western Australia references the WHS Act 2020. All 8 states and territories are supported.

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (ACT)

Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (ACT)

SWMS required under: s.299

Regulator: WorkSafe ACT

- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 66 — confined spaces
- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 67 — confined space entry permit
- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 68 — risk assessment for confined spaces
- WHS Reg 2011, Reg 74 — confined space emergency procedures

Applicable Australian Standards:

- AS/NZS 2865 — Confined spaces
- AS/NZS 1891.1 — Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices — Harnesses and ancillary equipment
- AS/NZS 1716 — Respiratory protective devices
- AS/NZS 60079.29.1 — Explosive atmospheres — Gas detectors

8. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Services:	000
Site Supervisor:	[Enter name and phone]
First Aid Officer:	[Enter name and phone]

Nearest Hospital:	[Enter hospital name and address]
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In the event of an emergency: Stop work immediately. Secure the area. Call 000 if required. Administer first aid. Notify site supervisor. Do not resume work until authorised.

9. WORKER SIGN-OFF

■ Satisfies WHS Reg 2011 s.299(c) — workers must be able to access the SWMS and confirm understanding before high-risk construction work commences

I have read, understood, and agree to comply with this Safe Work Method Statement. I understand the hazards and control measures and will follow the procedures outlined.

Name (Print)	Signature	Date	Company

10. MONITORING & REVIEW PROCEDURES

Control measures outlined in this SWMS must be monitored to ensure they remain effective. The following monitoring arrangements apply:

Monitoring Responsibility:	Site Supervisor / PCBU representative
Monitoring Frequency:	Before each shift, during work activities, at completion
Review Triggers:	Incident, near-miss, change in conditions, new worker, change in scope
Worker Consultation:	Toolbox talk before commencing HRCW; workers to report issues immediately

11. REVIEW LOG

Review Date	Reviewed By	Changes Made	Approved By
18 July 2026	[Reviewer Name]	Initial issue	[Approver Name]

■ Record-keeping obligation under WHS Regulation s.303 — SWMS must be retained until work is completed, or 2 years after a notifiable incident

RECORD KEEPING: Under WHS Regulation s.303, this SWMS must be kept until the work is completed. If a notifiable incident occurs, the SWMS must be retained for at least 2 years from the date of the incident.

SAMPLE DOCUMENT — Get your own trade-specific, editable SWMS at [getsiteready.com.au](https://www.getsiteready.com.au)