

## Confined Spaces

A confined space is defined as a space that:

- Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and
- Has limited or restricted means for entry and exit; and
- Is not designed for continuous human occupancy.

There are two classifications of Confined Spaces

1. **Non-Permit Confined Space** - A non-permit confined space is defined as a space that does not contain or have the potential to contain any hazard capable of causing death or serious physical harm.
2. **Permit Confined Space** - A permit required confined space is a space that:
  - a. Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant.  
*Engulfment* is defined as the surrounding and effective capture of a person by a liquid that can be aspirated to cause death by filling or plugging the respiratory system or that can exert enough force on the body to cause death by strangulation, constriction or crushing.
  - b. Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
  - c. Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section, or
  - d. Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Follow all required training in regards to entry of both non-permit and permit confined spaces and until properly trained do not enter these spaces. Proper signage will be posted at all designated confined spaces to inform employees of potential hazards.

*WHEN IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!*

**DANGER**

# **CONFINED SPACE**

## **ENTER BY PERMIT ONLY**

### **PREPARE FOR ENTRY**

- Identify hazards of permit space.
- De-energise and lockout all energy sources.
- Drain, clean and ventilate confined space.
- Isolate confined space - disconnect fill and drain lines.

### **TEST ATMOSPHERE**

- Oxygen level between 19.5% and 23.5%.
- Flammable gases/vapours less than 5% of LEL.  
(10% if an approved continuous monitoring flammable gas detector is in use).
- All substances below established EXPOSURE STANDARD.

### **PREPARE PERSONAL PROTECTION DEVICES**

- Respirator, protective clothing, lifeline and safety harness.

**ATTENDANT AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT IN PLACE**  
**REVIEW COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES**  
**OBTAIN AUTHORISED PERMIT**

# OSHA<sup>®</sup> QUICK CARD<sup>™</sup>

## Permit-Required Confined Spaces in General Industry



A confined space has limited openings for entry or exit, is large enough for entering and working, and is not designed for continuous worker occupancy. Confined spaces include underground vaults, tanks, storage bins, manholes, pits, silos, underground utility vaults and pipelines. See 29 CFR 1910.146.

Permit-required confined spaces are confined spaces that:

- May contain a hazardous or potentially hazardous atmosphere.
- May contain a material which can engulf an entrant.
- May contain walls that converge inward or floors that slope downward and taper into a smaller area which could trap or asphyxiate an entrant.
- May contain other serious physical hazards such as unguarded machines or exposed live wires.
- Must be identified by the employer who must inform exposed employees of the existence and location of such spaces and their hazards.

### What to Do

- Do not enter permit-required confined spaces without being trained and without having a permit to enter.
- Review, understand and follow employer's procedures before entering permit-required confined spaces and know how and when to exit.
- Before entry, identify any physical hazards.
- Before and during entry, test and monitor for oxygen content, flammability, toxicity or explosive hazards as necessary.
- Use employer's fall protection, rescue, air-monitoring, ventilation, lighting and communication equipment according to entry procedures.
- Maintain contact at all times with a trained attendant either visually, via phone, or by two-way radio. This monitoring system enables the attendant and entry supervisor to order you to evacuate and to alert appropriately trained rescue personnel to rescue entrants when needed.

**You have a right to a safe workplace.**

**If you have questions about workplace safety and health, call OSHA.**

**It's confidential. We can help!**

For more information:



U.S. Department of Labor

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) (800) 321-OSHA (6742)

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