

# Confined Space Plan

## Introduction

OSHA defines a confined space as an area, which has:

1. adequate size and configuration for employee entry;
2. has limited means of access or egress; and
3. is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

Confined spaces are classified as either "non-permit required confined spaces" or "permit required confined spaces." OSHA uses the term "permit-required confined space" (permit space) to describe those spaces that both meet the definition of "confined space" and pose health or safety hazards. A hazard assessment needs to be conducted and documented in order to classify a confined space.

The OSHA Standard "Permit Required Confined Spaces" (1910.146) requires that employees be protected from life threatening hazards associated with entry into confined spaces.

A Permit Required Confined Space contains or has the potential to contain one or more of the following hazards:

- Atmospheric hazards: Oxygen enrichment or deficiency, flammable /explosive vapors or gases, or toxic vapors and gases.
- Engulfment hazards: Materials within the space that could engulf entrant(s)
- Internal configuration hazards: Spaces whose internal configuration (inwardly converging walls) could trap or asphyxiate entrant(s).
- Other recognized serious safety or health hazards.

## Applicable Organization Policy (if applicable)

- Staff Safety Plan
- Risk management Plan

## Applicable Regulations

- 29 CFR 1910.146 - Permit Required Confined Spaces
- 29 CFR 1910.147 - Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout)
- 29 CFR 1910.120(c)(3). Hazardous Work- Hazard Identification
- 29 CFR 1910.252 Subpart Q - Welding, Cutting, and Brazing
- 29 CFR 1910.269 - Electrical Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution, Electrical Protective Equipment

## Summary of Requirements

- Prior to entering into a confined space, a hazard assessment shall be conducted to determine if the space is permit or non-permit required.
- Employees must be informed if their worksite contains permit spaces by an effective means of communication (e.g. training, signs, etc.). They must be informed of the existence and location of a danger posed by the permit space.
- Based on the hazard evaluation, follow the permit system if the confined space is classified as permit-required confined space. Entry operations into these spaces require a trained entry team.
- Comply with the written <organization name> Confined Spaces Program;
- Rescue and emergency services

## Training

Employees associated with entry into confined spaces are required to be trained before any entry is performed into a confined space. The training addresses hazards associated with the spaces and specific hazards contained in the workplace. In addition, the employees must be trained in entry requirements established by the <organization name> Confined Space Plan. Refresher training is required if there is a change in permit space operations that presents a hazard on which an employee has not previously been trained, or whenever a supervisor has reasons to believe that there are inadequacies in the employee's knowledge or use of entry procedures.

## Reporting

Immediately notify the CEO or Safety Officer of any accident involving a confined space. In the event of a fatality or incident resulting in the hospitalization of three or more people, the CEO will notify OSHA within 8 hours.

## Inspections

Inspections associated with hazards of confined space entry are required prior to and during entry.

## Recordkeeping

Records of permit required entries and documentation of required training are required.

## Written Program

The employer must develop and implement provision of a written Confined Space Plan.

## Resources

[Confined Space Pre-entry Check List, 1910.146 App D](#)

[Confined Spaces, NIOSH, Workplace Safety and Health Topics](#)

[OSHA Confined Spaces Advisor](#)

[Examples of Permit-required Confined Space Programs](#)