

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY PROGRAM

Program Element R2-10-207(11)(d)

The overall Industrial Hygiene Program shall include a Confined Space Entry Program element when applicable.

Confined Space Entry Programs are required to protect employees from hazards when entering permit-required confined spaces. OSHA's standard for confined spaces (29 CFR 1910.146) contains the requirements for practices and procedures to protect employees from the hazards of entering permit spaces.

A range of exposures may exist such as hazardous atmospheres, engulfment in materials, conditions that may trap or asphyxiate due to converging or sloping walls, or contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard(s).

Definition:	A confined space has limited openings for entry or exit, is large enough for an employee to bodily enter and perform assigned work, and is not designed for continuous worker occupancy. The elements of a Confined Space Program include identification and evaluation of work site confined spaces that have entrapment, engulfment, hazardous atmospheres and other serious safety or health hazard(s). If a space is classified as a "permit required confined space" the program will then include training, entry permit, monitoring and rescue procedures.
Why do I need this program?	Confined spaces may be encountered in virtually any facility or work site; therefore, their recognition is the first step in preventing fatalities. Since many of the hazards are not readily visible such as oxygen-rich, oxygen-deficient, toxic or combustible atmospheres, procedures are needed for safe entry and completion of tasks.
How do I know if this program applies to my agency and my specific job hazards?	OSHA requires employers to evaluate the workplace to determine if any spaces exist that are permit-required confined spaces. The first step is to identify confined spaces that are present in the workplace; if all three of the conditions listed below are present, it is a confined space.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and 2. Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vault, and pits); and 3. Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy <p>A permit required confined space decision flow chart would assist in determining if a confined space is a permit-required confined space. A permit required confined space has one or more of the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains, or has the potential to contain, a hazardous atmosphere • Contains a material that has the potential to engulf or entrap an entrant • Has an internal configuration such that an employee could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls, or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section • Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard
<p>What are the minimum required elements and/or best practices for a confined space program?</p>	<p>Guidelines and Criteria: Agencies that have employees who work in confined spaces must develop a written program that consists of at least the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate permit space hazards before allowing employee entry; • Implement necessary measures to prevent unauthorized entry; • If a space is classified as a “permit required confined space” the program will then need include training, entry permit, monitoring and rescue procedures; • Post a “DANGER -- PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE -- DO NOT ENTER” or similar language at each entrance to the Permit

	<p>Required Confined Space;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and train affected employees including entrant, attendant, supervisor, and rescuer(s); • Establish an entry permit system including preparation, issue, use and cancellation; • Establish safe permit required confined space entry operations procedures and practices to eliminate or control hazards; • If applicable, establish alternative procedures to a full permit entry; • Provide and maintain personal protective equipment and any other equipment necessary for safe entry; • Implement rescue and emergency services procedures; • Coordinate entry operations when employees of more than one employer are working in the permit space; and • Review established entry operations annually and revise the permit required confined space entry program as necessary.
<p>Are there any mandatory training requirements or best practices that must be developed by the agency?</p>	<p>The agency shall provide training so that all affected employees acquire the understanding, knowledge, and skills necessary for the safe performance of the duties assigned under this section. Employees should be trained in required roles including entrant, attendant, supervisor, and rescuer.</p> <p>Suggested topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General hazards associated with confined spaces. • Discussion of specific confined space hazards associated with the facility, location, or operation. • Proper use and limitations of personal protective equipment, and other safety equipment. • Explanation of permits and other procedural requirements for a confined space entry. • Conditions that would prohibit entry. • Procedures for responding to emergencies. • Duties and responsibilities of the confined space entry team.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of how to recognize symptoms of overexposure to probable air contaminants in themselves and co-workers, and method(s) for alerting the Attendant(s). <p>Rescue service personnel: The standard requires employers to ensure that responders are capable of responding to an emergency in a timely manner. The standard also requires that all rescuers be trained in first aid and CPR. Practice rescue exercises shall be performed yearly.</p>
<p>Are there specific requirements for documenting the program, training, etc...?</p>	<p>After completion of training, the employer must keep a record of employee training and make it available for inspection by employees and their authorized representatives. The record must include the employee's name, the trainer's signature or initials, and dates of the training.</p>
<p>Are there any resources available that can assist me in putting together a confined space safety plan?</p>	<p>The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have an interactive Confined Space Advisor program that can be downloaded or accessed directly from their site. This program provides interactive expert help for the Permit Required Confined Spaces Standard (29 CFR 1910.146) and will assist you in identifying confined spaces, determining whether they are permit required confined spaces, and advise you on the appropriate action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSHA Safety and Health Topic Page http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/confinedspaces/index.html • NIOSH Workplace Safety and Health Topics: Confined Spaces http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/confinedspace/ • OSHA Permit Required Confined Space https://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3138.html • Procedures for Atmospheric Testing in Confined Spaces https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/atmospheric_test_confined.pdf