

Confined Space Identification

What is Confined Space?

Many, or perhaps even most, workplaces have something on the premises that would be correctly termed a "confined space." OSHA's definition is a space that is large enough and configured in such a way that a person can enter and perform work inside, but has limited or restricted means of entry/exit, and is not designed for continuous occupancy.

Some examples of confined space include storage tanks, pits, silos, degreasers, sewers, tunnels, tanks, ect.

Permit-Required Confined Space:

Permit-Required Confined Space is a confined space that is potentially hazardous. A permit-required confined space has one or more of the following characteristics.

- Containers materials that has have the potential for engulfing
- Fall hazards
- Unguarded machinery
- Extreme heat or cold
- Steam pipes or chemical lines
- Hazardous noise levels
- Electrical hazards
- Presence of asbestos
- Potentially hazardous levels of dust

Reclassifying Permit-Required Confined Space:

It is important to know that we reclassify any permit required confined space before entering. This is done by removing all hazards that would require a confined space to be determined as confined space.

In order for reclassification to occur, a form must be filled out and hazards eliminated. The confined space must then be retested to ensure that no hazards are present.

NO ONE IS TO ENTER PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE UNLESS IT CAN AND HAS BEEN RECLASSIFIED. THE PROPER STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN BEFORE ENTERY IS TO OCCUR.

Non-Permit Confined Space:

Permit-required confined spaces may be reclassified as nonpermit-required confined spaces if certain criteria are met. If these criteria are met, rescue teams, special PPE, etc., are not required. The criteria include the following:

- The space poses no actual or potential hazardous atmospheres.
- All hazards within the space can be eliminated without entry into the space, such as locking and tagging equipment so it cannot be operated while employees are working inside.
- Forced-air ventilation to control atmospheric hazards does not constitute elimination of hazards.