



## Permit-Required Confined Spaces

The final rule for permit-required confined spaces is intended to eliminate deaths and injuries to workers entering and working in confined spaces and to rescue workers. A permit-required confined space is a space such as a tank, process vessel or bin which has limited opening for entry and exit and has potential for containing a serious hazard.

1. Any space is a permit-required confined space if it:
  - a. is not designed for continuous human occupancy.
  - b. is large enough and configured so that bodily entry can be performed.
  - c. has a limited or restricted entry or access.
  - d. contains some type of serious hazard.
2. Entry permit for permit-required confined spaces shall include:
  - a. Date of entry.
  - b. Location of entry.
  - c. Type of work to be performed in the confined space.
  - d. Hazards to be controlled or eliminated prior to entry.
  - e. Safety equipment required.
  - f. Safety precautions required to do the job.
  - g. Type of atmospheric tests and the results of those tests.
  - h. Type of rescue equipment that will be needed.
  - i. Duration for the permit.
  - j. Space for approval authority.
3. Some specific examples of confined spaces are:
  - a. Storage vessels
  - b. Furnaces
  - c. Tanks
  - d. Aircraft fuel cells
  - e. Railroad tank cars
  - f. Vats containing a hazard
  - g. Manholes
  - h. Crawlspace
4. Atmospheres must be tested in confined space before entry. Recommended sequence and acceptable limits are:
  - a. Oxygen: 19.5% to 23.5%
  - b. Flammability: less than 10% of LFL
  - c. Toxicity: less than recognized exposure limits (OSHA, ACGIH, MSDS, etc.)
5. If the confined space is vacated for any significant time period, retesting of atmosphere shall be conducted.

6. An employer may allow entry into a permit space without a written program, written permit, attendant, or rescue team, provided:
  - a. The only hazards in the permit space are atmospheric.
  - b. The hazards can be controlled by use of continuous forced air ventilation.
  - c. The atmosphere is tested periodically during the entry.
7. If a permit space has no potential for an atmospheric hazard, it may be reclassified as a non-permit space as long as all hazards remain eliminated.