

Confined Spaces in Construction: Authorized Entrant

5-Minute Talk

Overview

As a permit-required confined space entrant, your employee should understand and know your company's:

- Procedures involving the entry permit.
- Communication system during an entry, and while in the confined space.
- Personal protective equipment policy.
- Rescue and emergency procedures.

Employees must have the tools and knowledge to be able to perform their work safely and be able to recognize associated hazards.

You should also stress the importance of evacuating the space when its conditions change from acceptable to prohibited permit conditions, not entering a permitted confined space until a completed entry permit is present at the site, prohibiting the entry of nonauthorized persons, and communication between the attendant and authorized entrant.

Entry permit

The entry permit is the document that you provide to allow and control entry into a permit required confined space. The permit documents your compliance with the requirements of the OSHA regulations.

Ensure that your employees: (1) know how to obtain an entry permit, (2) check that all the required information is completed and that the entry supervisor has signed the permit, (3) understand that the entry supervisor can cancel the permit and terminate the entry when the entry operations have been completed or when a condition that is not allowed under the entry permit arises in or near the permit space.

Hazard recognition

Confined space hazards can include: engulfment by materials in the confined space; hazardous atmospheres such as oxygen deficiency or enrichment; toxic or flammable contaminants; and other safety or health hazards. Your employees need to know the signs, symptoms, and consequences for exposure to these hazards.

Equipment

Your employees need to be familiar with all equipment used during the confined space entry. Instruct them on: testing and monitoring, ventilation, communication, personal protection, and lighting equipment; barriers and shields; emergency and rescue equipment; and all other equipment for the safe entry or rescue from the confined space.



Communication procedures

Discuss the necessity for an entrant to communicate with the attendant to enable the attendant to monitor the entrant status, and for the attendant to alert the entrant of the need to evacuate.

Evacuation procedures

Cover the situations that may require evacuation such as the entrant detecting a warning sign or symptom or exposure, or an evacuation alarm being activated.

Rescue procedures

Discuss who will be providing any rescue and emergency services. Demonstrate the retrieval equipment.

Employee training

The training requirements for permit-required confined spaces are located at 29 CFR 1926.1207 Training.

You must provide training so that your employees whose work is regulated by the OSHA permit required confined space rule acquire the understanding, knowledge, and skills necessary for the safe performance of the duties assigned to them.

Training tips

In order to support the information covered, you may want to distribute a sample entry permit to trainees or fill out an entry permit as an exercise in the training session.

Practice employees demonstrating their knowledge and skill in using their personal protective equipment.

Where to go for more information

§1926.1200 - §1926.1213 - Subpart AA—Confined Spaces in Construction.

