

Confined Spaces in Construction: Overview

5-Minute Talk

Overview

A permit-required confined space is any space that has one or more of the following characteristics:

- Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
- Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant;
- Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section; or
- Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

What must employers do?

Employers are required to evaluate the workplace to identify all permit-required confined spaces. The employer must inform employees of the confined spaces and their dangers; must post warning signs; and shall take measures to prevent unauthorized employees from entering permit spaces.

If permit spaces exist, the employer must develop and implement a written permit space program. The written program must be available for inspection by employees and their authorized representatives.

Employee Training

The employer will provide training to employees so that they acquire the understanding, knowledge, and skills necessary for the safe performance of duties.

Employees must be trained when first assigned to duties in and around permit spaces; before there is a change in assigned duties; whenever there is a change in operations that presents a hazard; and whenever the permit-space entry procedures change.

Certification of such training must be available for inspection by employees or their authorized representatives.

Training Tips

Read 29 CFR Subpart AA Confined Spaces in Construction to become familiar with the requirements of the standard.

Explain your company's written confined-space permit procedures, including the use of warning signs, and how to obtain a permit.

Demonstrate how to use air-monitoring equipment, and demonstrate the air tests necessary before entry is made into the space.



Explain the role and duties of the attendant. Explain what rescue and/or emergency equipment is needed and demonstrate its use.

Explain the procedure for summoning rescue and emergency services.

Certification of training must be available for inspection by employees or their authorized representatives.

Where To Go For More Information

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

