

Instructions

Work Area Evaluation for Confined Spaces

The project team must evaluate each work area to determine if confined spaces are present.

Section 1: Confined Space Evaluation

If the project team identifies a space that is classified as a confined space, they are to designate which type and communicate the evaluation to the project manager (PM).

To classify a space as a *confined space*, **all three** of the following criteria must be met:

Size: Is the space large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work?

Access/Egress: Are there limited or restricted means of access or egress? Can the employee easily egress (exit) the space if there is an emergency? Can rescue personnel easily enter the space?

Occupancy: Is the space **not** designed for continuous human occupancy? Is the space only designed to house equipment? Are there normal-sized doorways and windows?

If the space is classified as a *confined space*, the next step is to evaluate it as a *permit-required confined space*.

Section 2: Permit-Required Confined Space Evaluation

To classify a *confined space* as a *permit-required confined space*, **any** of the following criteria must be met:

1. Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere:
 - A. Flammable gas, vapor, or mist in excess of 10 percent of its lower flammable limit (LFL);
 - B. Airborne combustible dust at a concentration that meets or exceeds its LFL;
NOTE: This concentration may be approximated as a condition in which the dust obscures vision at a distance of 5 feet or less.
 - C. Atmospheric oxygen concentration below 19.5 percent or above 23.5 percent;
 - D. Atmospheric concentration of any toxic substance above its permissible exposure limit (PEL); or
 - E. Any other atmospheric condition that is immediately dangerous to life or health.
2. Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant;
3. Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section; or
4. Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Section 2: Space Designation

If there are no confined spaces identified in the work area, check the box indicating so and file the form.

If there are confined spaces identified in the work area:

1. Check the box indicating so.
2. Give the location, identification, and a description of the confined space (e.g., tank farm 1, MW-01, monitoring well vault).
3. Designate if the space is a non-regulated space, confined space, or permit-required confined space.
4. Communicate the evaluation to the PM and project-team members.
5. File the form in the project filing system.