

Permit Required Confined Spaces

Employers should evaluate their workplaces for the presence of confined spaces.

"**Confined space**" means a space that:

- (1) Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work; and
- (2) Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit (for example, tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, and pits are spaces that may have limited means of entry.); and
- (3) Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

"**Permit-required confined space (permit space)**" means a confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics:

- (1) Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
- (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 which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section; or
- (4) Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

OSHA Resources

Standards	29 CFR 1910.146
OSHA Webpage	OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page: Confined Spaces – OSHA Standards
Online Tools	Use an online tool to determine if you are subject to OSHA's standard for permit-required confined spaces. OSHA eTool: Confined Spaces Advisor
Other	OSHA's Permit-Required Confined Space Decision Flow Chart