Chapter 6: Confined Space

Quick Start Summary

The requirements of the Confined Space program apply to workers (as entrants and attendants), confined space entry supervisors, confined space owners, area and building managers, line management, field construction and service managers, and the confined space program manager.

Work in confined spaces poses risks of exposure to hazardous and oxygen-deficient atmospheres and to hazardous energy; engulfment, and injuries such as bumps, scrapes, and lacerations.

A confined space is classified as either a non-permit-required confined space (NPRCS) or a permit-required confined space (PRCS), depending on the type of hazards present. Requirements for entering depend on the classification. Certain PRCSs may be temporarily declassified or entered under an alternate procedure by eliminating hazards before entry.

Every entry must be formally authorized (by a confined space entry supervisor) using the appropriate form. The forms document conditions, controls, and authorization and are used to confirm the classification. Information from completed forms is used to update the site-wide inventory of confined spaces.

Known classified spaces must be assigned an owner, who in turn is responsible for posting warning signs. Entrants, attendants, and entry supervisors must be qualified. Every confined space entry requires the presence of at least two qualified persons (the two-person rule).

These requirements take effect 30 March 2020.

Or contact the program manager.