

Confined Space Policy Definitions

Acceptable Entry Conditions: The conditions that must exist in a permit space to allow entry and to ensure that employees can safely work within the space.

Attendant: An individual stationed outside a permit space who monitors the authorized entrants and who performs all attendants' duties assigned in this program.

Confined Space: A space that meets all of the following conditions:

1. is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work
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)
3. is not designed for continuous employee occupancy

Emergency: Any occurrence or event internal or external to the permit space that could endanger entrants. This includes any failure of hazard control or monitoring equipment.

Entry: The action by which a person passes through an opening into a permit space. Entry includes ensuing work activities in that space and is considered to have occurred as soon as any part of the authorized entrant's body breaks the plane of an opening into the space.

Entry Permit: The written or printed document that is provided by the supervisor to allow and control entry into a permit space.

Entry Supervisor: The person (supervisor, foreman, or crew chief) responsible for determining if acceptable entry conditions are present at a permit space where entry is planned, for authorizing entry and overseeing entry operations, and for terminating entry as required by this program. The entry supervisor may also serve as an attendant or as an authorized entrant, as long as that person has been properly trained and equipped for each role.

Hazardous Atmosphere: An atmosphere that may expose employees to the risk of death, incapacitation, and impairment of ability to self-rescue, injury, or acute illness for one or more of the following causes:

1. flammable gas, vapor, or mist in excess of 10 percent of its lower flammable limit (LFL)
2. airborne combustible dust at a concentration that meets or exceeds its LFL, which may be approximated as a condition in which the dust obscures vision at a distance of 5 feet or less

3. atmospheric oxygen concentration below 19.5 percent or above 23.5 percent
4. atmospheric concentration of any substance for which a dose or a permissible exposure limit is published in 1910 Subpart G, Occupational Health and Environmental Control, or in 1910 Subpart Z, Toxic and Hazardous Substances, and which could result in employee exposure in excess of its dose or permissible exposure limit
5. Any other atmospheric condition that is immediately dangerous to life or health

Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH): Any condition that poses an immediate or delayed threat to life or that would cause irreversible adverse health effects or that would interfere with an individual's ability to escape unaided from a permit space.

Inerting: The displacement of the atmosphere in a permit space by a noncombustible gas (such as nitrogen) to such an extent that the resulting atmosphere is noncombustible. This procedure produces an IDLH oxygen-deficient atmosphere.

Lockout/Tagout: Any procedure used to isolate the permit space from a hazardous energy source as described in the University's Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout) Program.

Non-Permit Confined Space: A confined space that does not contain or, with respect to atmospheric hazards, have the potential to contain any hazard capable of causing death or serious physical harm.

Permit-Required Confined Space (permit space): 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, such as a liquid or finely divided solid, that has the potential to engulf 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
4. contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard

Rescue Service: Personnel designated to rescue employees from permit spaces.

Retrieval System: The equipment (including a retrieval line, chest or body harness, wristlets, and a lifting device or anchor) used for non-entry rescue of persons from a permit space.

Telecommunications Center: An installation of communication equipment under the exclusive control of an organization providing telecommunications services, that is located outdoors or in a vault, chamber, or a building space used primarily for such installations.