

Enter & Work in Confined Spaces



Workplace Injuries

‘Working in a confined space is potentially one of the most dangerous of all workplace hazards’.

It’s been calculated that working in a

confined space is 50 to 100 times more dangerous than doing the same job outside.”

Source: NZ Department of Labour



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Workplace Injuries

Fatalities from entering confined space

95% From a hazardous atmosphere

86% Done the same entry before

25% Atmosphere tested before

entry often many times

64% Could have conducted the work from outside

60% Attempting to rescue others

3% Had received previous training



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What Is A Confined Space?

Working in confined or enclosed spaces can be extremely dangerous and can lead to serious injury, illness or death for individuals or whole groups of workers. A confined space can increase a worker's risk of being overcome by fumes, gases or lack of oxygen, damage to hearing through increased noise or vibration, extreme temperatures and injury through falls and slips.

It is very important that you have the ability to correctly identify a confined space in order to take appropriate actions such as obtaining permits and using safety equipment.



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What Is A Confined Space?

- The Australian standard (AS 2865-2009) defines a confined space as an enclosed or partially enclosed space that is not intended or designed primarily for human occupancy, within which there is a risk of one or more of the following:
 - a) An oxygen concentration outside the safe oxygen range
 - b) A concentration of airborne contaminant that may cause impairment, loss of consciousness or asphyxiation.
 - c) A concentration of flammable airborne contaminant that may cause injury from fire or explosion.
 - d) Engulfment in a stores free-flowing solid or a rising level of liquid that may cause suffocation or drowning.



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What Is A Confined Space?

Confined spaces may include:



Culverts & Storm Water Systems



Pipes & live or inactive sewer
Mains/tunnels



Shafts, duct & access chambers

What Is A Confined Space?

Confined spaces may include:



Pits, trenches gullies.



Environmental traps & tanks



Box girders & bridge voids



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What Is A Confined Space?

Confined spaces may include:



Storage tanks,
process vessels,
boilers, pressure
vessels, silos and
other tank like
compartments



Tank Cars



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What Is A Confined Space?

Confined spaces may include:



Shipboard spaces entered through a small hatchway or access point such as:

- Cargo tanks
- Cellular double bottom tank
- Duct keels
- Ballast
- Oil tanks
- Void spaces (not including dry cargo holds)



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What Is A Confined Space?

- A person is deemed to have entered a confined space when their head (i.e. the breathing zone) or upper part of the body is within the boundary of the confined space. (Note that inserting an arm for atmospheric testing is not considered an entry into a confined space).

