



## GOALS

This safety session teaches employees:

- The basic requirements of the confined spaces in construction standard
- The differences between the construction standard and the general industry standard

### Applicable Regulations: 29 CFR 1926 Subpart AA



**1. What is a permit-required confined space? A permit-required confined space (or permit space) is a work area that:**

- Is large enough for an employee to enter
- Has limited means of entry or exit
- Is not designed for continuous occupancy
- Presents a physical or atmospheric hazard

**2. Why does the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulate work done in confined spaces at construction sites?**

- The combination of deadly hazards and a space that is difficult to get out of is exceptionally dangerous to workers.
- Special precautions are necessary to ensure that workers are safe in a confined space.

**3. Some spaces that you enter frequently, without thinking about it, may actually be permit-required confined spaces, including:**

- Attics and crawl spaces
- Pits
- Sewer systems
- Tanks
- Manholes

**4. Who can enter a permit space?**

- Only workers who have been assigned and trained to work in a permit space may enter a permit space.
- Workers who will enter a confined space must be listed on the permit.

**5. What if there are permit spaces at the site where I am working, but I am not trained to enter them?**

- You may not enter a permit space without special training, equipment, and permission.

**6. If I need more information about permit spaces at my worksite, whom should I ask?**

- The controlling contractor at the site is responsible for providing information about permit spaces at the site to all subcontractors.



**7. The construction rule is very similar to the general industry rule, but it does have a few additional requirements. The five new requirements apply to:**

- *Multiemployer worksites.* Because multiemployer worksites are more common in construction, the construction standard has more detailed rules for multiemployer worksites than the general industry standard. It requires that all employers coordinate their activities so that hazards are not introduced into a confined space by workers performing tasks outside the space. An example would be a generator running near the entrance of a confined space causing a buildup of carbon monoxide within the space.
- *Space identification and evaluation.* The construction standard requires a competent person to evaluate the worksite and identify confined spaces, including permit spaces.
- *Atmospheric monitoring.* The construction standard requires continuous atmospheric monitoring whenever possible.
- *Engulfment hazard monitoring.* The construction standard requires continuous monitoring of engulfment hazards. For example, when workers are performing work in a storm sewer, a storm upstream from the workers could cause flash flooding. An electronic sensor or observer posted upstream from the worksite could alert workers in the space at the first sign of the hazard, giving the workers time to evacuate the space safely.
- *Permit suspension.* The construction standard allows an entry permit to be suspended, rather than canceled, in the event of changes from the entry conditions list on the permit or an unexpected event requiring evacuation of the space. The space must be returned to the entry conditions listed on the permit before reentry.

**8. What if some of the workers in a space are doing general industry work, but others are doing work that's covered by the construction standard? Are we going to have issues?**

- In cases like that, OSHA has stated that compliance with the new construction standards will count as compliance for all employers at the site.



**DISCUSSION POINTS:**

- The standard includes requirements for the identification of permit spaces, the preparation of a written permit program, and the provision of equipment and specific personnel and training for confined space entry.
- There are different types of job descriptions associated with confined space entry (entry supervisors, authorized entrants, and attendants). Each of these positions requires specific training in the duties of the job.



**CONCLUSION:**

OSHA's new confined spaces in construction standard is very similar to the existing general industry standard—but with some changes that address construction-specific issues. The most important thing to know is that if you are not an authorized entrant with a valid permit, you must not enter a permit space.



**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:**

Have your employees take the Confined Spaces in Construction quiz. By testing their knowledge, you can judge their understanding of confined spaces in construction safety requirements and whether they need to review this important topic again soon.



## CONFINED SPACES IN CONSTRUCTION QUIZ

- 1. A permit-required confined space is characterized in part by:**
  - a. Limited means of entry and exit
  - b. The absence of atmospheric hazards
  - c. A large enough interior for workers to enter
  - d. a and c
- 2. An attic or crawl space may meet the definition of a permit-required confined space.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 3. Workers who will enter a confined space must:**
  - a. Perform atmospheric monitoring.
  - b. Be listed on the entry permit.
  - c. Be trained as supervisors.
  - d. All of these.
- 4. Workers who are not trained in confined space entry may enter permit-required confined spaces only briefly.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 5. Employers on multiemployer worksites are required to communicate about confined spaces so that:**
  - a. All workers can act as rescuers if needed.
  - b. All workers can participate in the permit process.
  - c. Hazards are not introduced into a confined space by workers performing tasks outside the space.
  - d. b and c
- 6. Anyone who has received confined space entry training can officially identify a permit-required confined space.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
- 7. The construction standard requires \_\_\_\_\_ monitoring of atmospheric hazards whenever possible.**
  - a. Careful
  - b. Electronic
  - c. Intermittent
  - d. Continuous
- 8. Engulfment hazards must be continuously monitored so that:**
  - a. Workers will have enough warning to evacuate, if necessary.
  - b. Electrical installations are not threatened.
  - c. Employers can prevent property damage.
  - d. All of these.
- 9. If the entry conditions listed on the permit change, workers must \_\_\_\_\_ the space.**
  - a. Purge
  - b. Reevaluate
  - c. Evacuate
  - d. Close
- 10. The construction standard allows an entry permit to be suspended rather than canceled.**
  - a. True
  - b. False

When you have completed this quiz, turn it in to your supervisor.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## ANSWERS TO CONFINED SPACES IN CONSTRUCTION QUIZ

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1. d. a and c A permit-required confined space (or permit space) is a work area that is large enough for an employee to enter, has limited means of entry or exit, is not designed for continuous occupancy, and presents a physical or atmospheric hazard.
2. a. True.
3. b. Be listed on the entry permit.
4. b. False. Workers who are not trained in confined space entry may not enter permit-required confined spaces.
5. c. Hazards are not introduced into a confined space by workers performing tasks outside the space.
6. b. False. The construction standard requires a competent person to evaluate the worksite and identify confined spaces, including permit spaces.
7. d. Continuous.
8. a. Workers will have enough warning to evacuate, if necessary.
9. c. Evacuate.
10. a. True.