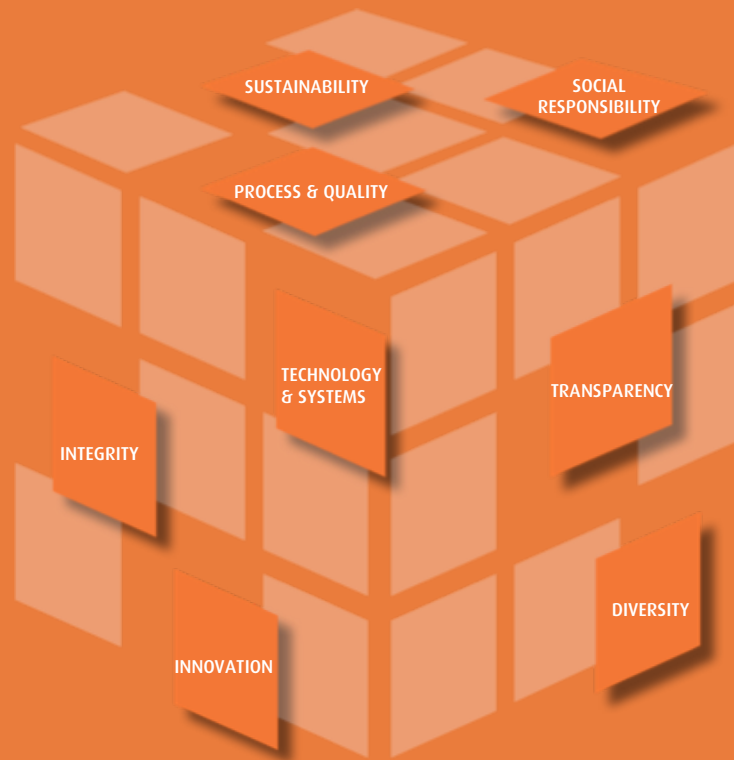


## Attendants' Role in Confined Space



This module is about the Attendants' Role in Confined Space.

There is a short Final Quiz at the end of the module, which will be scored. It is necessary to pass with a score of 80% or better to receive credit for this module.

This module takes 20 minutes to complete.

Many factors need to be evaluated when looking for hazards in a confined space. There is smaller margin for error. An error in identifying or evaluating potential hazards can have more serious consequences.

In some cases, the conditions in a confined space are always extremely hazardous. In other cases, conditions are life threatening under an unusual combination of circumstances. This variability and unpredictability is why the hazard assessment is extremely important and must be taken very seriously each and every time one is done.

### Some examples include:

- The entrance/exit of the confined space might not allow the worker to get out in time should there be a flood or collapse of free-flowing solid.
- Self-rescue by the worker is more difficult.
- Rescue of the victim is more difficult. The interior configuration of the confined space often does not allow easy movement of people or equipment within it.
- Natural ventilation alone will often not be sufficient to maintain breathable quality air. The interior configuration of the confined space does not allow easy movement of air within it.
- Conditions can change very quickly.
- The space outside the confined space can impact on the conditions inside the confined space and vice versa.
- Work activities may introduce hazards not present initially.

### Duties

- For all confined space entries, a permit system shall be used whereby the Entry Supervisor completes a checklist detailing the items, which should be checked prior to entry.
- The permit will be written and issued by the Entry Supervisor and the Entry Supervisor will review the permit with the host facility staff, the attendant, the entrant and any other authorized personnel prior to entry.
- The Entry Supervisor is also charged with coordinating cancellation of the permit with the host facility.
- A copy of the recommended permit is attached at the end of this section.
- Prior to an entry, the owning facility will work with the Entry Supervisor to ensure external hazards or barriers such as pedestrians, other workers, vehicles and machinery will not be present during the entry.

### Duties

- A representative from the host or contractor entrant must authorize on the permit if ATALIAN Employees are to provide the attendant service for them.
- After the Entry Supervisor has approved the entry, the permit will remain in the area until the work is completed.
- The permit will then be filed with this plan with any applicable comments or problems and kept for one (1) year.
- ATALIAN employees will not enter any confined space, which is determined by Entry Supervisor to be immediate danger to life and health (IDLH) and will evacuate if areas they are working in attain IDLH levels.
- An attendant is required during all confined space entries.
- The attendant will watch the employee(s) in the confined space at all times keeping in voice contact.



### **Duties of the Entry Supervisor**

- ✓ Know all hazards
- ✓ Verifies acceptable entry conditions
- ✓ Terminates entry
- ✓ Assures rescue available
- ✓ Removes unauthorized persons and entrants
- ✓ Assures acceptable entry conditions maintained
- ✓ Signs entry permit



### Duties of the Attendant

- Knows hazards
- Behavioral effects of exposure
- Ensures periodic/continuous monitoring of the space is being completed and documented on the permit.
- Verifies entrants sign the permit when they enter or exit the space.
- Remains outside of Confined Space
- Communicates with Entrants
- Monitors internal and external Confined Space activities
- Alerts Entrants if alarm sounds and evacuates all personnel
- Only monitors one confined space at a time
- Summons rescue services
- Actions taken to manage unauthorized persons:
  - warns to stay away
  - advises to exit if they enter Confined Space
  - informs the supervisor or facility manager

### Duties of the Authorized Entrants

- Knows hazards
- Symptoms and exposure consequences
- Use required equipment properly
- Communicate as necessary with attendant and other entrants
- Alert attendant of signs, prohibited conditions, and dangers
- Sign the entry permit
- Exit from permit space as quickly as possible whenever
  - attendant orders so or work is completed
  - entrant recognizes any dangerous situation, or warning signs
  - entrant detects a prohibited condition or evacuation alarm

### Methods

- ▶ Oxygen, combustible gas, H<sub>2</sub>S, and CO. will be monitored prior to entry and then continuously.
- ▶ Readings will be reviewed by the entrant, attendant, and Entry Supervisor prior to entry.
- ▶ In some cases ATALIAN will conduct their own monitoring but in others the host facility will be responsible for monitoring and/or providing gas detectors to entrants and attendants.
- ▶ This will be predetermined between the Entry Supervisor, the host facility and the ATALIAN Director of Safety prior to an entry.
- ▶ ATALIAN employees will not use gas detectors without prior documented training given by the Director of Safety.
- ▶ In either case continuous monitoring will be conducted and readings will be recorded hourly on the permit or at a frequency determined by the host facility.
- ▶ All readings will be recorded on the Confined Space Entry Permit. If readings become unsafe immediate removal of personnel is required. An attendant is required at all times during entry unless otherwise posted on the entry permit.
- ▶ Standby equipment will include protective clothing equal to the level of the workers in the confined space, additional harness and lifeline.
- ▶ This equipment will be staged in the immediate vicinity of the confined space.

### Emergency Procedure

- ▶ The attendant will watch the employees in the confined space at all times keeping in voice contact and will order them out if any ill effects are observed or the monitoring devices indicate a hazardous condition.
- ▶ If an employee inside the space becomes unconscious or incapacitated the standby employee must call for help to the shift supervisor or designated alternate.
- ▶ During confined space entry a mobile phone or radio will be at the work site. In some facilities Gai-tronics or other communication devices can also be used to call for help.
- ▶ The attendant will keep all unauthorized rescuers from entering the space. The help must arrive and be in position prior to any rescue attempt.
- ▶ The rescuers should be dressed in Level B to be sure that they are protected from whatever felled their fellow employee.
- ▶ An employee will remain on standby while the rescue operation is in progress.
- ▶ ATALIAN employees will not perform rescue operations: they will always be provided by the host facility as per contract agreement.
- ▶ Once removed, the person affected in the space will be transported immediately taken to hospital for testing and observation.

Retraining/review of the confined space program will occur if there is an unauthorized entry of a confined space, a hazard not covered by the permit occurs, at the occurrence of an injury or near miss, or employee complaints on the program.

The QHSE Department must internally review the confined space program whenever there is an incident or near miss. OSHA requires a review of the permit space program, using the canceled permits retained within 1 year after each entry and revise the program as necessary, to ensure that employees are protected. This has been coordinated with host facilities that they are to be responsible for this review and will contact ATALIAN if there is an incident or near miss.

Congratulations!  
You've completed the Attendants' Role in Confined Space module.

Click [here](#) and take the final quiz.