

Self-inspection checklist

Confined spaces: permit-required

- Do you have a written permit-confined-space program?
- Is the program available for inspection?
- Are confined spaces thoroughly emptied of any corrosive or hazardous substances, such as acids or caustics, before entry?
- Before entry, are all pipelines to a confined space containing inert, toxic, flammable, or corrosive materials valved-off and blanked or disconnected and separated?
- Are all impellers, agitators, or other moving equipment inside confined spaces locked out if they present a hazard?
- Is either natural or mechanical ventilation provided prior to confined-space entry?
- Before entry, are appropriate atmospheric tests performed to check for oxygen deficiency, toxic substances, and explosive concentrations in the confined space?
- Is adequate lighting provided for the work being performed in the confined space?
- Is the atmosphere inside the confined space frequently tested or continuously monitored during the work process?
- Is there an attendant outside the confined space whose sole responsibility is to watch the work in progress, sound an alarm if necessary, and help render assistance?
- Are attendants or other employees prohibited from entering the confined space without lifelines and respiratory equipment if there is an emergency?
- In addition to the attendant, is there at least one trained rescuer in the vicinity?
- Are all rescuers appropriately trained and using approved, recently inspected equipment?
- Does all rescue equipment allow for lifting employees vertically through a top opening?
- Are rescue personnel trained in first aid and CPR, and are they immediately available?
- Is there an effective communication system for whenever respiratory equipment is used and the employee in the confined space is out of sight of the attendant?

- Is approved respiratory equipment required if the atmosphere inside the confined space cannot be made acceptable?
- Is all portable electrical equipment used inside confined spaces grounded and insulated or equipped with ground-fault protection?
- Before gas welding or burning is begun in a confined space, are hoses checked for leaks, compressed-gas bottles removed, and torches lit only outside the confined space area, to be returned to the confined space only after testing for explosive atmosphere?
- When using oxygen-consuming equipment (such as salamanders, torches, and furnaces) in a confined space, is air provided to ensure combustion without reducing the oxygen concentration of the atmosphere below 19.5 percent by volume?
- Whenever combustion-type equipment is used in a confined space, are provisions made to ensure that exhaust is vented outside the enclosure?
- Is each confined space checked for decaying vegetation or animal matter that may produce methane?
- Is the confined space checked for possible industrial waste that could contain toxic properties?
- If the confined space is below ground and near areas where motor vehicles are operating, is it possible for vehicle exhaust or carbon monoxide to enter the space?