

Life-Saving Rule

Confined Space

Obtain authorisation before entering a confined space



- I confirm energy sources are isolated
- I confirm the atmosphere has been tested and is monitored
- I check and use my breathing apparatus when required
- I confirm there is an attendant standing by
- I confirm a rescue plan is in place
- I obtain authorisation to enter

Additional Guidance & References

A confined space, such as a vessel, tank, pipe, cellar or excavation, can contain explosive gas, toxic or asphyxiating atmosphere or other dangers such as energy releases, lack of oxygen, exposure to hazardous chemicals, things that can fall on you or crush you, or that you can fall from. Authorised access keeps you safe.

Organisations should determine if any work involving excavations or trenches creates confined space conditions and ensure necessary work authorisation and controls.

Further reading:

- IOGP report 577 – Fabrication site construction safety practices – Hazardous activities provides simple requirements for confined space entry. Although developed for construction, these are easily transferable to other operations.
- UK Health and Safety Executive (UK HSE): <http://www.hse.gov.uk/confinedspace/>
- USA Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/confinedspaces/>
- API Recommended Practice for the Design of Offshore Facilities Against Fire and Blast Loading