



Confined Space Entry Standard

1.0 POLICY

This standard supports the Hazard Controls Policy and establishes the requirements for managing risk associated with confined spaces.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Communication

For the purposes of this standard, communication is a system of maintaining contact between the confined space entry observer and the person(s) in the confined space. Methods of communication can include simple voice, visual contact, radio, alarm or any other system that allows for constant contact between worker and attendant.

2.2 Confined Space

Confined Space is an enclosed or partially enclosed space that is not primarily designed or intended for human occupancy, except for the purpose of performing work and has restricted means of entrance / exit.

2.3 Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH)

Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) is an atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life would cause irreversible adverse health effects or would impair an individual's ability to escape.

2.4 Hazardous Confined Space

Hazardous confined space is a confined space that is or may become hazardous to a worker entering the confined space due to design, construction or atmosphere of the confined space; materials or substances in the confined space; work activities or processes used in the confined space; and/or other conditions relating to the confined space.

2.5 Observer

An observer is a worker that is trained in confined space work procedures and attends a hazardous confined space, ensuring regular communication with the workers in the confined space. The same job duties apply in some local procedures; however, the term "attendant" may be used.

3.0 METHOD / PRACTICE

3.1 Identify Confined Space Hazards

- Confined space hazards shall be identified, in consultation with the Occupational Health Committee (OHC) via documented hazard identification and risk assessment. This process shall involve identification of:
 - Types of confined spaces at a site that a worker may be required or permitted to enter.
 - Confined spaces deemed as hazardous or non-hazardous, based on:
 - Design, construction or atmosphere.
 - Materials or substances.
 - Work activities or processes in the confined space.
 - Other conditions related to the confined space.
 - Types of hazards that are or may be present at each confined space.



- Alternative means to perform the work that do not require entry into the confined spaces; and
- Alterations to the physical characteristics of the confined spaces that may be necessary to ensure safe entrance and exit.

3.2 Control Methods

- Where practical confined space hazards shall be removed. Where hazards cannot be removed controls shall be used to reduce risk.
- Engineering/design controls are the preferred controls and include:
 - Determining alternate means to perform work so entry is not necessary.
 - Altering physical characteristics of confined space to eliminate or reduce hazards.
- Administrative controls include:
 - Taking all reasonably practicable steps to prevent unauthorized entry into confined spaces.
 - Conducting a hazard identification and risk assessment in pre-job planning, before a confined space entry.
 - Documenting the assessment for hazardous confined space entry.
 - Written procedures for working in a hazardous confined space, in compliance with the legislative requirements.
 - Where practical, making the procedures readily available to all employees working at the locations where these confined spaces are found.
 - Approval by a supervisor for entering into a confined space that is deemed as immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH).
 - Ensuring a safe entrance to and exit from the confined space before permitting work in the confined space.
 - Ensuring the structural integrity of the confined space.
 - Where an employee is required to enter a hazardous confined space, a written hazardous confined space entry plan must be prepared, which must include the elements listed in s.272 (2) of *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996*.
 - Relevant confined space training programs for supervisors and employees entering confined space, observers and rescue personnel.
 - Personnel trained in the appropriate confined space rescue procedure, made available at each site where confined space work is performed.
 - Trained observers attending workers in hazardous confined spaces. The observer shall:
 - Be identifiable on the work site.
 - Communicate with the workers in a hazardous confined space, using a communication method that is appropriate to the work being performed and to the design of the particular confined space.
 - Have outside communication devices readily available to them.
 - Have a list of emergency call numbers readily available.
 - Initiate emergency response when necessary.
- Personal protective equipment shall be used where hazard identification and risk assessment identify the requirement and where engineering and administration controls do not effectively reduce the risk.
- It is preferable to establish layers of protection by combining the three hazard control types.
 - Pertinent safety and rescue equipment, as outlined in the OH&S Regulations shall be used or be readily available when work is being carried out in a confined space.
 - Confined space monitoring devices shall be calibrated in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.
 - If auxiliary lighting is used, workers in a confined space shall have appropriate emergency lighting readily available.



4.0 REFERENCES

- Saskatchewan
 - The Employment Act, 2014
 - The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996, Part XVIII Confined Space Entry
- SaskPower (Located on SafetyNet)
 - Hazard Controls Policy
 - Safety Rulebook
 - Confined Space Manual, SaskPower Boundary Dam Power Station