
Chapter 296-809 WAC
Safety Standards for Confined Spaces
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Chapter 296-809 WAC

Safety Standards for Confined Spaces

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WAC 296-809-099 Definitions.

Acceptable entry conditions. The conditions that must exist in a permit-required confined space to allow safe entry and work.

Attendant. An individual stationed outside one or more permit-required confined spaces to monitor the entrants.

Blanking or blinding. The absolute closure of a pipe, line, or duct by fastening a solid plate (such as a spectacle blind or a skillet blind) that completely covers the bore. It is capable of withstanding **the maximum pressure of the pipe, line, or duct with no leakage beyond the plate.**

Confined space. A space that is **all** of the following:

- (a) Large enough and arranged so an employee could fully enter the space and work.
- (b) Has limited or restricted entry or exit. Examples of spaces with limited or restricted entry are tanks, vessels, silos, storage bins, hoppers, vaults, excavations, and pits.
- (c) Not primarily designed for human occupancy.

Double block and bleed. The closure of a line, duct, or pipe by closing and locking or tagging 2 in-line valves and by opening and locking or tagging a drain or vent valve in the line between the 2 closed valves.

Emergency. Any occurrence (including any failure of hazard control or monitoring equipment) or event internal or external to the permit-required confined space that could endanger authorized entrants.

Engulfment. The surrounding capture of a person by a liquid or finely divided (flowable) solid substance that can be inhaled to cause death by filling or plugging the respiratory system or that can exert enough force on the body to cause death by strangulation, constriction, or crushing.

Enter (entry). The action by which a person passes through an opening into a permit-required confined space and includes work activities in that space. Entry is considered to have occurred as soon as any part of the entrant's body breaks the plane of an opening into the space.

Note: If the opening is large enough for the worker to fully enter the space, a permit is required even for partial body entry. Permits are not required for partial body entry where the opening is not large enough for full entry, although other rules such as chapter [296-803](#) WAC, Lockout-tagout, and chapter [296-841](#) WAC, Airborne contaminants, may apply.

Entrant. An employee who is authorized by the employer to enter a permit-required confined space.

Entry permit (permit). The written or printed document that is provided by you to allow and control entry into a permit-required confined space and that contains the information required in WAC 296-809-500, Permit entry procedures.

Entry supervisor. The person (such as the employer, crew leader, or crew chief) responsible for:

- (a) Determining if acceptable entry conditions are present at a permit-required confined space where entry is planned;
- (b) Authorizing entry and overseeing entry operations; and
- (c) Terminating entry as required.

Hazardous atmosphere. An atmosphere that may expose employees to the risk of death, incapacitation, impairment of ability to self-rescue (that is, escape unaided from a permit-required confined space), injury, or acute illness caused by one or more of the following:

- (a) Flammable gas, vapor, or mist in excess of 10 percent of its lower flammable limit (LFL).
- (b) Airborne combustible dust at a concentration that meets or exceeds its LFL.

Note: This concentration may be approximated as a condition in which the dust obscures vision at a distance of 5 feet (1.52 m) or less.

- (c) Atmospheric oxygen concentration below 19.5 percent or above 23.5 percent.
- (d) Atmospheric concentration of any substance which may exceed a permissible exposure limit. For additional information about atmospheric concentration, see chapter [296-62](#) WAC, Parts F, G, and I, General occupational health standards and chapter [296-841](#) WAC, Airborne contaminants.

Note: An airborne concentration of a substance that is not capable of causing death, incapacitation, impairment of ability to self-rescue, injury, or acute illness due to its health effects is not covered by this definition.

- (e) Any other atmospheric condition that is immediately dangerous to life or health.

Note: You can find guidance on establishing acceptable atmospheric conditions for air contaminants, which have no WISHA-determined doses or permissible exposure limits using other sources of information, such as:

1. Safety data sheets required by WAC [296-901-14014](#), Safety data sheets.
2. Published information.
3. Internal documents.

Hot work permit. A written authorization to perform operations, for example, riveting, welding, cutting, burning, and heating, that can provide a source of ignition.

Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) Any of the following conditions:

- (a) An immediate or delayed threat to life.
- (b) Anything that would cause irreversible adverse health effects.
- (c) Anything that would interfere with an individual's ability to escape unaided from a permit-required confined space.

Note: Some materials - hydrogen fluoride gas and cadmium vapor, for example - may produce immediate transient effects that, even if severe, may pass without medical attention, but are followed by sudden, possibly fatal collapse 12 to 72 hours after exposure. The victim "feels normal" after recovery from transient effects until collapse. Such materials in hazardous quantities are considered to be "immediately" dangerous to life or health (IDLH).

Inerting. The displacement of the atmosphere in a permit-required confined space by a noncombustible gas (such as nitrogen) to such an extent that the resulting atmosphere is noncombustible.

Note: This procedure produces an IDLH oxygen-deficient atmosphere.

Isolation. The process by which a permit-required confined space is removed from service and completely protected against the release of energy and material into the space by such means as: Blanking or blinding; misaligning or removing sections of lines, pipes, or ducts; a double block and bleed system; lockout or tagout of all sources of energy; or blocking or disconnecting all mechanical linkages.

Line breaking. The intentional opening of a pipe, line, or duct that is or has been carrying flammable, corrosive, or toxic material, an inert gas, or any fluid at a volume, pressure, or temperature capable of causing injury.

Nonpermit confined space. A confined space that does NOT contain actual hazards or potential hazards capable of causing death or serious physical harm.

Oxygen deficient atmosphere. An atmosphere containing less than 19.5 percent oxygen by volume.

Oxygen enriched atmosphere. An atmosphere containing more than 23.5 percent oxygen by volume.

Permit-required confined space or permit space. A confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics capable of causing death or serious physical harm:

- (a) Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
- (b) Contains a material with the potential for engulfing someone who enters.

- (c) Has an internal configuration that could allow someone entering to be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor, which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section.
- (d) Contains any physical hazard. This includes any recognized health or safety hazards including engulfment in solid or liquid material, electrical shock, or moving parts.
- (e) Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard that could either:
 - (i) Impair the ability to self-rescue; or
 - (ii) Result in a situation that presents an immediate danger to life or health.

Permit-required confined space program. An overall program for:

- (a) Controlling and appropriately protecting employees from permit-required confined space hazards; and
- (b) Regulating employee entry into permit-required confined spaces.

Prohibited condition. Any condition in a permit-required confined space that is not allowed by the permit during the authorized entry period.

Rescue service. The personnel designated to rescue employees from permit-required confined spaces.

Retrieval system. The equipment used for nonentry rescue of persons from permit-required confined spaces, such as a retrieval line, full-body harness or wristlets, and a lifting device or anchor.

Testing. The process of identifying and evaluating the hazards that entrants may be exposed to in a permit-required confined space. Testing includes specifying the tests that are to be performed in the permit-required confined space.

Note: Testing allows employers to devise and implement adequate controls to protect entrants during entry, and to determine if acceptable entry conditions are present.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-099, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 14-07-086 (Order 13-08), § 296-809-800, filed 03/18/14, effective 05/01/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 07-05-062, 07-06-005 (Order 06-38), § 296-809-800, filed 02/20/07, effective 04/01/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-800, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04]

WAC 296-809-100 Scope.

This chapter applies to all confined spaces and provides requirements to protect employees from the hazards of entering and working in confined spaces. This chapter applies in any of the following circumstances:

- (1) You have confined spaces in your workplace.
- (2) Your employees will enter another employer's confined spaces.
- (3) A contractor will enter your confined spaces.
- (4) You provide confined space rescue services.

You can use Table 1 to help you decide which requirements to follow for confined spaces.

Table 1 Requirements for Confined Spaces						
For confined spaces that are	The requirements in the following sections apply					
	200	300	400	500	600	700
Permit-required confined spaces	X	X	X	X	X	X
Entered by a contractor	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nonpermit confined spaces	X					X
Never entered	X					
If you only:						
Use alternate entry procedures	X	X	X		X	
Have a contractor enter your space	X					
Are a rescue service provider		X	X	X		

Rules in other chapters that cover confined spaces may also apply to your work. You can find a list of these rules in the resources section of this chapter.

Note:

1. *Requirements in other chapters may apply to your work. You will find some safety and health requirements are addressed on a broad level in this chapter, while being addressed for a specific application in another rule. When this happens, both requirements apply and should not conflict. When a conflict does occur, you need to follow the more specific requirement.*
2. *If you are uncertain which requirements to follow, contact your local labor and industries (L&I) office.*
3. *For a complete list of local L&I offices, see the resources section of the safety and health core rules, chapter [296-800](#) WAC.*

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-100, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-100, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-200 Identifying and controlling permit-required confined spaces.

Summary

Your responsibility: To identify your permit-required confined spaces and control employee entry.

<i>You must meet the requirements...</i>	<i>in this section:</i>
Identify permit-required confined spaces	WAC 296-809-20002
Inform employees and control entry to permit-required confined spaces	WAC 296-809-20004
Follow these requirements when you contract with another employer to enter your confined space	WAC 296-809-20006

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-200, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-200, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-20002 Identify permit-required confined spaces.

<i>Important:</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>If your workplace contains only nonpermit confined spaces and your employees do not enter another employer's confined space, you may follow only the requirements in:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>WAC 296-809-200, Identifying and controlling permit-required confined spaces; and</i> b. <i>WAC 296-809-700, Nonpermit confined space requirements.</i> 2. <i>See the resources section for other chapters covering confined spaces that may apply to your work.</i>

- (1) You must identify all permit-required confined spaces in your workplace.
- (2) You must assume any confined space is a permit-required confined space, unless you determine the space to be a nonpermit confined space.
 - (a) If you enter the space to determine the hazards, follow the requirements in WAC 296-809-500, Permit entry procedures.
 - (b) If you evaluate the confined space and there are no potential or actual hazards, you can consider it to be a nonpermit confined space. Document your determination that the space is nonpermit, as required by WAC 296-809-700.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-20002, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-20002, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-20004 Inform employees and control entry to permit-required confined spaces.

- (1) You must provide information about confined spaces as follows:
 - (a) Make available to affected employees and their authorized representatives all information and documents required by this chapter.
 - (b) Inform affected employees about the existence, location, and danger of any permit-required confined spaces in your workplace by:
 - (i) Posting danger signs; or
 - (ii) Using any other equally effective means to inform employees.

Note: A sign reading “Danger-Permit Required Confined Space, DO NOT ENTER” or using pictures or other similar wording employees can understand would satisfy the requirement for a sign.

- (2) You must take effective measures to prevent unauthorized employees from entering permit-required confined spaces.

Note: Examples of measures to prevent employee entry include padlocks, bolted covers, special tools to remove covers, and providing employee training.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-20004, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-20004, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-20006 Follow these requirements when you contract with another employer to enter your confined space.

Important:

The contractor is responsible for following all confined space requirements in this chapter and in other rules that apply. For a list of other rules that may apply, see the resources section of this chapter.

You must do **all** of the following if you arrange to have another employer (contractor) perform work that involves entry into your permit-required confined space:

- (1) Inform the contractor:
 - (a) That the workplace contains permit-required confined spaces and entry is allowed only if the applicable requirements of this chapter are met.
 - (b) Of the identified hazards and your experience with each permit-required confined space.

-
- (c) Of any precautions or procedures you require for the protection of employees in or near spaces where the contractor will be working.
 - (2) Coordinate entry operations with the contractor, when either employees or employers from the different companies will be working in or near permit-required confined spaces.
 - (3) Discuss entry operations with the contractor when they are complete. Include the following in your discussion:
 - (a) The program followed during confined space entry; and
 - (b) Any hazards confronted or created.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-20006, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-20006, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-300 Permit-required confined space program.

Summary

Your responsibility: To develop your permit-required confined space program and practices.

Important:

This section applies if employees will enter a permit-required confined space.

<i>You must meet the requirements...</i>	<i>in this section:</i>
Develop a written permit-required confined space program	WAC 296-809-30002
Meet these additional requirements if your employees enter another employer's confined space	WAC 296-809-30004

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-300, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-300, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-30002 Develop a written permit-required confined space program.

Important:

Identify and evaluate the hazards of permit-required confined spaces and the work performed, to assist you in developing your entry program.

- (1) You must develop a written program, before employees enter, that describes the means, procedures, and practices you use for the safe entry of permit-required confined spaces as required by this chapter. Include the following when applicable to your confined space entry program:
 - (a) Documentation of permit entry procedures.
 - (b) Documentation used for alternate entry procedures.
 - (c) How to reclassify permit-required confined spaces to nonpermit spaces.
 - (d) Designation of employee roles, such as entrants, attendants, entry supervisors, rescuers, or those who test or monitor the atmosphere in a permit-required space.
 - (e) Identification of designated employee duties.

- (f) Training employees on their designated roles.
- (g) How to identify and evaluate hazards.
- (h) Use and maintenance of equipment.
- (i) How to prevent unauthorized entry.
- (j) How to coordinate entry with another employer.
- (k) How to rescue entrants.

Note: For alternate entry, your written program only needs to meet the requirements of WAC 296-809-400, Employee training, and WAC 296-809-600, Alternate entry procedures, of this chapter.

- (2) You must consult with affected employees and their authorized representatives when developing and implementing all aspects of your permit-required confined space program.
- (3) You must make the written program available to employees and their authorized representatives.
- (4) You must update your written program as necessary.

Link: *You can find a sample permit-required confined space entry program in the user guide located in the resources section of this chapter or by visiting the labor and industries web site at <http://www.lni.wa.gov/FormPub> or <http://www.lni.wa.gov/safety/rules/helpfultools/default.asp>.*

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-30002, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-30002, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-30004 Meet these additional requirements if your employees enter another employer's confined space.

- (1) You must obtain any available information about permit-required confined space hazards and entry operations from the host employer.
- (2) You must coordinate entry operations with any other employers whose employees will be working in or near the permit-required confined space.

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- (3) You must inform the host employer, either through a debriefing or during entry operations, about:
- (a) The entry program you will follow; and
 - (b) Any hazards you confronted or created in the space during entry operations.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-30004, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-30004, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-400 Employee Training.

Summary

Your responsibility: To make sure employees are trained to perform their designated roles safely.

You must meet the requirements...	in this section:
Provide employee training	WAC 296-809-40002
Certify employee proficiency	WAC 296-809-40004

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-400, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-400, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-40002 Provide employee training.

- (1) You must provide training to each employee involved in permit-required confined space activities, so they acquire the understanding, knowledge and skills necessary to safely perform assigned duties.
 - (a) Establish employee proficiency in their confined space duties.
 - (b) Introduce new or revised procedures as necessary.

Note: Employers can determine employee proficiency by:

1. *Observing employee performance during training exercises that simulate actual confined space conditions.*
2. *A comprehensive written examination; or*
3. *Any other method that is effective for the employer.*

- (2) You must provide training at the following times:
 - (a) Before an employee is first assigned to duties covered by this chapter.
 - (b) Before there is a change in an employee's assigned duties.
 - (c) When there is a permit-required confined space hazard for which the employee has not already been trained.
 - (d) If you have reason to believe that there are either:
 - (i) Deviations from our procedures for permit-required confined space entry; or
 - (ii) Employee knowledge or use of your procedure is inadequate.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-40002, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-400, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-40004 Certify employee proficiency.

- (1) You must certify employee proficiency in their assigned duties.
- (2) You must make sure the certification:
 - (a) Contains each employee's name, the trainer's written or electronic signature or initials, and the dates of training.
 - (b) Is available for inspection by employees and their authorized representatives.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-40004, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-400, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-500 Permit-entry procedures.

Summary

Your responsibility: To establish procedures for the safe permit-required entry of confined spaces.

<i>You must meet the requirements...</i>	<i>in this section:</i>
Implement procedures for entry permits	WAC 296-809-50002
Use an entry permit that contains all required information	WAC 296-809-50004
Keep and review your entry permits	WAC 296-809-50006
Prevent unauthorized entry	WAC 296-809-50008
Provide, maintain and use proper equipment	WAC 296-809-50010
Evaluate and control hazards for safe entry	WAC 296-809-50012
Make sure you have adequate rescue and emergency service available	WAC 296-809-50014
Use nonentry rescue systems or methods whenever possible	WAC 296-809-50016
Make sure entry supervisors perform their responsibilities and duties	WAC 296-809-50018
Provide an attendant outside the permit-required confined space	WAC 296-809-50020
Make sure entrants know the hazardous conditions and their duties	WAC 296-809-50022
Implement procedures for ending entry	WAC 296-809-50024

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-500, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-500, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50002 Implement procedures for entry permits.

- (1) You must identify and evaluate, before employees enter, potential hazards from:
 - (a) The permit-required confined space; and
 - (b) The work to be performed.
- (2) You must complete an entry permit before entry is authorized, documenting that you have completed the means, procedures and practices necessary for safe entry and work.

- (3) You must make sure that entrants or their representatives have an opportunity to observe any monitoring or testing, or any actions to eliminate or control hazards, performed to complete the permit.
- (4) You must identify the entry supervisor and make sure Make sure the entry supervisor signs the entry permit, authorizing entry, before the space is entered.
- (5) You must make the completed permit available to entrants or their authorized representatives at the time of entry. Do this by either posting the completed permit at the entry location, or by any other equally effective means.
- (6) You must make sure the duration of the permit does not exceed the time required to complete the assigned task or job identified on the permit.
- (7) You must note any problems encountered during an entry operation on the permit. Use the information to make appropriate revisions to your program, entry operations, means, systems, procedures and practices.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50002, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-400, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50004 Use an entry permit that contains all required information.

You must make sure your entry permit identifies **all** of the following that apply to your entry operation:

- (1) The space to be entered.
- (2) Purpose of the entry.
- (3) Date and the authorized duration of the entry permit.
- (4) Hazards of the space to be entered.
- (5) Acceptable entry conditions.
- (6) Results of initial and periodic tests performed to evaluate and identify the hazards and conditions of the space, accompanied by the names or initials of the testers and by an indication of when the tests were performed.
- (7) Appropriate measures used before entry to isolate the space, and eliminate or control hazards. Examples of appropriate measures include the lockout or tagging of equipment and procedures for purging, inerting, ventilating, and flushing permit-required confined spaces.
- (8) Names of entrants and current attendants. Other means include the use of rosters or tracking systems as long as the attendant can determine quickly and accurately, for the duration of the permit, which entrants are inside the space.
- (9) The current entry supervisor.
- (10) A space for the signature or initials of the original supervisor authorizing entry.
- (11) Communication procedures for entrants and attendants to maintain contact during the entry.

- (12) Equipment provided for safe entry, such as:
 - (a) Personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - (b) Testing equipment.
 - (c) Communications equipment.
 - (d) Alarm systems.
 - (e) Rescue equipment.
- (13) Rescue and emergency services available, and how to contact them. Include equipment to use, and names and contact information.
- (14) Other information needed for safety in the particular confined space.
- (15) Additional permits issued for work in the space, such as for hot work.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50004, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50004, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50006 Keep and review your entry permits.

- (1) You must keep entry permits for at least one year.
- (2) You must keep entry permits or other atmospheric monitoring records that show the actual atmosphere an employee entered or worked in, as employee exposure records.
- (3) You must review your permit-required confined space entry program by conducting a review when you have any reason to believe your entry program may not protect employees, and revise your program before allowing subsequent entries.

Note: Examples of circumstances requiring the review of your program include the following:

1. *There is unauthorized entry of a permit space.*
2. *A permit space hazard not covered by the permit is found.*
3. *A condition prohibited by the permit occurs.*
4. *An injury or near-miss occurs during entry.*
5. *There is a change in the use or configuration of a permit space.*
6. *An employee complains about the effectiveness of the program.*

- (4) You must review canceled entry permits within one year following each entry to evaluate:
 - (a) Your permit-required confined space program.
 - (b) The protection provided to employees entering permit-required confined spaces.
- (5) You must update your written permit-required confined space entry program as necessary.

Note: Employers may perform a single annual review covering all entries performed during a 12-month period. If no entry is performed during a 12-month period, no review is necessary.

Reference: Keep employee exposure records according to chapter [296-62](#) WAC, Part B, Access to records.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50006, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50006, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50008 Prevent unauthorized entry.

You must implement measures necessary to prevent unauthorized entry into permit-required confined spaces, when conducting authorized entry.

Note:

- 1. When removing entrance covers to open the confined space, protect entrants and those outside the confined space from hazards.*
- 2. Examples of measures to prevent unauthorized entry are signs, barricades, warning tape, and an attendant.*

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50008, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50008, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50010 Provide, maintain, and use proper equipment.

- (1) You must provide the equipment in Table 2, when needed and at no cost to employees.
- (2) You must make sure that employees use provided equipment properly.
- (3) You must maintain the provided equipment.

Table 2 Equipment Provided to Employees at No Cost	
Type of equipment	For
Testing and monitoring equipment	Evaluating permit-required confined space conditions
Ventilating equipment	Obtaining and maintaining acceptable entry conditions
Communication equipment	Effective communication between the attendant and the entrants and to initiate rescue when required
Personal protective equipment (PPE)	Protecting employees from hazards of the space or the work performed
Lighting equipment	Employees to see well enough to work safely and to exit the space quickly in an emergency
Barriers or shields, such as pedestrian, vehicle or other barriers	Protecting employees from hazards outside of the space
Ladders	Safe entry and exit by entrants
Rescue and emergency equipment, except for equipment provided by the rescue service provider	Safe and effective rescue
Any other equipment	Safe entry into and rescue from permit-required confined spaces

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50010, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50010, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50012 Evaluate and control hazards for safe entry.

- (1) You must evaluate and control hazards for safe entry into permit-required confined spaces by doing all the following:
 - (a) Test for atmospheric hazards, in this order:
 - (i) Oxygen
 - (ii) Combustible gases and vapors.
 - (iii) Toxic gases and vapors.

- (b) Provide each entrant or their authorized representative an opportunity to observe any of the following:
 - (i) Preentry testing.
 - (ii) Subsequent testing.
 - (iii) Monitoring of permit-required spaces.
 - (c) Reevaluate the permit-required space in the presence of any entrant, or their authorized representative, who requests this to be done because they have reason to believe that the evaluation of that space may not have been adequate.
 - (d) Upon request, immediately provide each entrant or their authorized representative, with the results of any testing required by this rule.
 - (e) Continuously monitor conditions in areas where entrants are working, when isolation of the space is not feasible.
- (2) Examples would be a large space or space that is part of a continuous system, such as a sewer.
- (3) You must evaluate space conditions during entry as follows:

Table 3 Evaluating Space Conditions	
You must:	In order to:
Test conditions before entry	Determine that acceptable entry conditions exist before entry is authorized by the entry supervisor
Test or evaluate space conditions during entry	Determine that acceptable entry conditions are being maintained during entry operations
Evaluate entry operations	Make sure entrants of more than 1 employer working at the same time in or around a permit-required confined space, do not endanger each other

Important: *This section applies to both:*

1. *Employers whose employees use permit entry procedures; and*
2. *Employers who provide rescue services.*

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50012, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50012, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50014 Make sure you have adequate rescue and emergency services available.

- (1) You must make sure you have adequate rescue and emergency services available during your permit-required confined space entry operations.
 - (a) Evaluate and select rescue teams or services who can:
 - (i) Respond to a rescue call in a timely manner. Timeliness is based on the identified hazards. Rescuers must have the capability to reach potential victims within an appropriate time frame based on the identified permit space hazards.
 - (ii) Proficiently rescue employees from a permit-required confined space in your workplace. Rescuers must have the appropriate equipment for the type of rescue.
 - (b) Make sure that at least one member of the rescue team or service holds a current certification in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
 - (c) Inform each rescue team or service about the hazards they may confront when called to perform rescue.
 - (d) Provide the rescue team or service with access to all permit spaces from which rescue may be necessary. This will allow them to develop appropriate rescue plans and to practice rescue operations.

Note: What will be considered timely will vary according to the specific hazards involved in each entry. For example, chapter [296-842 WAC, Respirators](#), requires that employers provide a standby person or persons capable of immediate action to rescue employee(s) for work areas considered to contain an IDLH atmosphere.

- (2) You must provide employees assigned to provide permit-required confined space rescue and emergency services must be provided, at no cost to the employee, with:
 - (a) Personal protective equipment (PPE) needed for safe entry.
 - (b) Other equipment required to conduct rescues safely.
 - (c) Training so they are:
 - (i) Proficient in the use of the PPE and other equipment.
 - (ii) Proficient in an entrant of permit-required confined spaces.
 - (iii) Able to safely perform assigned rescue and emergency duties.
 - (iv) Knowledgeable in basic first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

- (d) Practice sessions for permit-required confined space rescues **at least** once every 12 months where dummies, manikins, or actual persons are removed from either:
 - (i) The actual permit spaces; or
 - (ii) Representative permit spaces that simulate the opening size, configuration, and accessibility, of permit spaces where rescue will be performed.
- (3) You must establish procedures for:
 - (a) Contacting rescue and emergency services.
 - (b) Rescuing entrants from permit-required confined spaces.
 - (c) Providing necessary emergency services to rescued entrants.
 - (d) Preventing unauthorized persons from attempting a rescue.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50014, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 09-05-071 (Order 08-35), § 296-809-50014, filed 02/17/09, effective 04/01/09]. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50014, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50016 Use nonentry rescue systems or methods whenever possible.

- (1) You must use nonentry retrieval systems or methods to rescue entrants in a permit-required confined space unless this:
 - (a) Would increase the overall risk of injury to entrants; or
 - (b) Would not contribute to the rescue of the entrant.
- (2) You must make sure each entrant uses a chest or full-body harness, with a retrieval line attached to the harness at one of the following locations:
 - (a) At the center of the employee's back, near shoulder level.
 - (b) Above the employee's head.
 - (c) At another point which presents a profile small enough for the successful removal of the employee.
- (3) You must attach the retrieval line to a mechanical device or fixed point outside the space, so rescue can begin as soon as necessary.
- (4) You must make sure a mechanical device is available to retrieve entrants from vertical spaces more than 5 feet (1.52 m) deep.

Note: When you can demonstrate that the use of a chest or full-body harness is not feasible or creates a greater hazard, then you may use wristlets or another method shown to be the safest and most effective alternative.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50016, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50016, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50018 Make sure entry supervisors perform their responsibilities and duties.

You must make sure that an entry supervisor:

- (1) Authorizes the entry into a permit-required confined space by signing the entry permit.
- (2) Oversees entry operations.
- (3) Knows about the hazards that may be faced during entry, including the mode, signs or symptoms, and consequences of the exposure.
- (4) Verifies and checks **all** of the following:
 - (a) The appropriate entries have been made on the permit.
 - (b) All tests specified by the permit have been conducted.
 - (c) All procedures and equipment specified by the permit are in place before approving the permit and allowing entry to the space.
- (5) Terminates the entry and cancels the permit when:
 - (a) The assigned task or job has been completed.
 - (b) A condition in the space that is not covered by the entry permit is discovered.
- (6) Verifies that rescue services are available and that there is a way to contact them.
- (7) Removes unauthorized individuals who enter or attempt to enter the permit-required confined space during entry operations.
- (8) Determines that entry operations remain consistent with the terms of the entry permit and acceptable entry conditions are maintained:
 - (a) Whenever responsibility for a permit-required space entry operation is transferred;
and
 - (b) At regular intervals dictated by the hazards and operations performed within the space.

Note:

1. *Make sure entry supervisors have the required knowledge and proficiency to perform the job duties and responsibilities required by this chapter.*
2. *The entry supervisor may also perform other duties under this chapter, such as attendant or entrant, if they are trained and proficient in those duties.*
3. *The responsibility of the entry supervisor may be passed from one supervisor to another during an entry operation.*

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50018, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50018, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50020 Provide an attendant outside the permit-required confined space.

Important:

1. *The number of attendants assigned should be tailored to the requirements of the space and the work performed.*
2. *You need to assess if it is appropriate or possible to have multiple permit spaces monitored by a single attendant, or have an attendant stationed at a location outside each space. Video cameras and radios are examples of tools that may assist an attendant monitoring more than one space.*
3. *Attendants may be stationed at any location outside the permit-required confined space if the duties described in this section can be effectively performed for each space that is monitored.*

- (1) You must provide at least one attendant outside the permit-required confined space during entry operations.
- (2) You must make sure each permit-required confined space attendant:
 - (a) Understands the hazards that may be faced during entry, including the mode, signs or symptoms, and results of exposure to the hazards.
 - (b) Is aware of the behavioral effects of exposure to the hazard.
 - (c) Continuously maintains an accurate count of entrants in the space.
 - (d) Maintains an accurate record of who is in the permit-required confined space.
 - (e) Communicates with entrants as necessary to monitor their status or alert them of the need to evacuate the space.

-
- (f) Monitors activities inside and outside the space to determine if it is safe for entrants to remain in the space.
 - (g) Orders entrants to evacuate the space immediately if **any** of the following conditions occur:
 - (i) A prohibited condition.
 - (ii) The behavioral effects of hazardous exposure in an entrant.
 - (iii) A situation outside the space that could endanger entrants.
 - (iv) The attendant cannot effectively and safely perform all the duties required in this chapter.
 - (h) Takes the following actions when unauthorized persons approach or enter a space:
 - (i) Warns unauthorized persons to stay away from the space.
 - (ii) Tells the unauthorized persons to exit immediately if they have entered the space.
 - (iii) Informs entrants and the entry supervisor if unauthorized persons have entered the space.
 - (i) Performs nonentry rescues as specified by our rescue procedure.
 - (j) Has the means to respond to an emergency affecting one or more of the permit spaces being monitored without preventing performance of the attendant's duties to the other spaces being monitored.
 - (k) Carries out no duties that might interfere with their primary duty to monitor and protect the entrants.
 - (l) Calls for rescue and other emergency services as soon as entrants may need assistance to escape from the space.
 - (m) Monitors entry operations until relieved by another attendant or all entrants are out of the space.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50020, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50020, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50022 Make sure entrants know the hazardous conditions and their duties.

You must make sure that all entrants:

- (1) Know the hazards they may face during entry, including the mode, signs or symptoms, and results of exposure to the hazards.
- (2) Use equipment properly.
- (3) Communicate with the attendant as necessary so the attendant can:
 - (a) Monitor entrant status.
 - (b) Alert entrants of the need to evacuate.
- (4) Alert the attendant whenever either of these situations exist:
 - (a) A warning sign or symptom of exposure to a dangerous situation such as, behavioral changes, euphoria, giddiness potentially from lack of oxygen or exposure to solvents.
 - (b) A prohibited condition.
- (5) Exit from the permit-required confined space as quickly as possible when one of the following occurs:
 - (a) The attendant or entry supervisor gives an order to evacuate.
 - (b) The entrant recognizes any warning sign or symptom of exposure to a dangerous situation.
 - (c) The entrant detects a prohibited condition.
 - (d) An evacuation alarm is activated.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50022, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50022, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-50024 Implement procedures for ending entry.

You must make sure you terminate the entry when entry operations are completed, including securing an entrance cover and canceling the permit.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-50024, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-50024, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-600 Alternate entry procedures.

Summary

Your responsibility: To choose alternate entry procedures for spaces where the only hazard is a hazardous atmosphere.

Important: *In addition to this section, you also need to meet the requirements in the following sections of this chapter:*

1. WAC 296-809-200, *Identifying and controlling permit-required confined spaces.*
2. WAC 296-809-300, *Permit-required confined space program.*
3. WAC 296-809-400, *Employee training.*

You must meet the requirements...	in this section:
Make sure the following conditions are met if using alternate entry procedures	WAC 296-809-60002
Follow these alternate entry procedures for permit-required confined spaces	WAC 296-809-60004

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-600, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-600, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-60002 Make sure the following conditions are met if using alternate entry procedures.

- (1) You must make sure, when using alternate entry procedures, instead of permit entry procedures, that you have monitoring and inspection data that supports the following:
 - (a) That the only hazard of the permit-required confined space is an actual or potentially hazardous atmosphere.
 - (b) That continuous forced air ventilation alone is all that is needed to maintain the permit-required confined space for safe entry.
- (2) You must make sure an entry to obtain monitoring and inspection data or to eliminate hazards is performed according to WAC 296-809-500, Permit entry procedures.
- (3) You must make sure all documentation produced is available to each affected employee and their authorized representative.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-60002, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-60002, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-60004 Follow these alternate entry procedures for permit-required confined spaces.

You must use the following alternate entry procedures:

- (1) Eliminate any unsafe conditions before removing an entrance cover.
 - (a) When entrance covers are removed, promptly guard the opening with a railing, temporary cover, or other temporary barrier to prevent accidental falls through the opening and protect entrants from objects falling into the space.
 - (b) Certify that preentry measures have been taken (such as safe removal of the cover and having protection needed to gather preentry data), with the date, location of the space, and signature of the person certifying.
 - (c) Make the preentry certification available before entry to each entrant.
- (2) Before an employee enters the confined space, test the internal atmosphere with a calibrated, direct-reading instrument for all of the following, in this order:
 - (a) Oxygen content.
 - (b) Flammable gases and vapors.
 - (c) Potential toxic air contaminants.
- (3) Provide entrants, or their authorized representatives, with an opportunity to observe the preentry and periodic testing.
- (4) Make sure the atmosphere within the space is not hazardous when entrants are present.
- (5) Use continuous forced air ventilation, as follows:
 - (a) Wait until the forced air ventilation has removed any hazardous atmosphere before allowing entrants into the space.
 - (b) Direct forced air ventilation toward the immediate areas where employees are, or will be, and continue ventilation until all employees have left the space.
 - (c) Provide the air supply from a clean source and make sure it does not increase hazards in the space.
- (6) Test the atmosphere within the space as needed to make sure hazards do not accumulate.
- (7) If a hazardous atmosphere is detected during entry, do all of the following:
 - (a) Evacuate employees from the space immediately.
 - (b) Evaluate the space to determine how the hazardous atmosphere developed.
 - (c) Implement measures to protect employees from the hazardous atmosphere before continuing the entry operation.
 - (d) Verify the space is safe for entry before continuing the entry operation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-60004, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-60004, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-700 Nonpermit confined spaces requirements.

Summary

Your responsibility: To make sure any space you classify as nonpermit, does not have the potential to contain serious health or safety hazards.

<i>You must meet the requirements...</i>	<i>in this section:</i>
Follow these requirements when classifying a confined space as a nonpermit confined space	WAC 296-809-70002
Reevaluate nonpermit confined spaces if hazards develop.	WAC 296-809-70004

Important:

A confined space may be classified as a nonpermit confined space for as long as the hazards remain eliminated. Once a hazard is present, you must follow all requirements of this chapter that apply.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-700, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-700, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-70002 Follow these requirements when classifying a confined space as a nonpermit confined space.

- (1) You must make sure the confined space meets these conditions to be classified as nonpermit confined spaces:
 - (a) The confined space does not contain an actual or potential hazardous atmosphere.
 - (b) The confined space does not contain hazards capable of causing death or serious physical harm. This includes any recognized health or safety hazards including engulfment in solid or liquid material, electrical shock, or moving parts.
 - (c) If you must enter to remove hazards, the space must be treated as a permit-required confined space until hazards have been eliminated.

Note:

1. *Controlling atmospheric hazards through forced air ventilation does not eliminate the hazards.*
2. *You should evaluate the use of lockout-tagout, as covered in chapter [296-803](#) WAC, to determine if using it fully eliminates the hazard.*
3. *You are allowed to use alternate entry procedures covered in WAC 296-809-600, if you can demonstrate that forced air ventilation alone will control all hazards in the space.*

- (2) You must document how you determined the confined space contained no permit-required confined space hazards. Certify this documentation with the following:
 - (a) Date.
 - (b) Location of the space.
 - (c) Signature of the person making the determination.
- (3) You must make the certification available to each entrant, or their authorized representative.

Note: This certification must be completed every time a permit-required confined space is reclassified as a nonpermit space.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-70002, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .020, .040, .050, and .060. 07-03-163 (Order 06-30), § 296-809-70002, filed 01/24/07, effective 04/01/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-70002, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

WAC 296-809-70004 Reevaluate nonpermit confined spaces if hazards develop.

- (1) You must reclassify a nonpermit confined space to a permit-required confined space, if necessary, when changes in the use or configuration of the space increase the hazards to entrants.
- (2) You must make sure all employees exit the space if hazards develop. You must then reevaluate the space and determine whether it must be reclassified as a permit-required confined space.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 15-24-102 (Order 14-18), § 296-809-70004, filed 12/01/2015, effective 01/05/2016. Statutory Authority: Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .040, .050, and .060. 04-03-081 (Order 02-15), § 296-809-70004, filed 01/20/04, effective 05/01/04].

Confined Spaces

Resources

Chapter 296-809 WAC

Helpful Tools

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Rules in Other Chapters that Cover Confined Spaces

General Safety and Health Standards, Chapter 296-24

- WAC 296-24-69507, Confined Spaces
- WAC 296-24-70007, Work in Confined Spaces
- WAC 296-24-71507, Work In Confined Spaces
- WAC 296-24-71509 through -71519, Ventilation in Confined Spaces
- WAC 296-24-960(10), Working on or near Exposed Energized Parts

Safety Standards for Telecommunication, Chapter 296-32

- WAC 296-32-340, Underground lines a cable vaults

Safety Standards for Electrical Workers, Chapter 296-45

- WAC 296-45-205, Enclosed Spaces
- WAC 296-45-215, Underground Electrical Installations
- WAC 296-45-225, Underground Residential Distribution (URD)

Safety Standards for Longshore and Stevedore, Chapter 296-56

- WAC 296-56-60053, Hazardous Atmospheres and Substances
- WAC 296-56-60235(2), Welding, Cutting (hot work)
- WAC 296-56-60235(6), Welding, Cutting (hot work)

Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Mills and Converters, Chapter 296-79

- WAC 296-79-230, Vessel or Confined Area Requirements

Safety Standards for Grain Handling Facilities, Chapter 296-99

- WAC 296-99-040 What practices must an employer follow for entry into grain storage structures

Safety Standards for Construction Work, Chapter 296-155

- WAC 296-155- 203 and 20307, Confined Spaces
- WAC 296-155-280 (1)(b) and 280(5)(d)(ii), Temporary Heating Devices
- WAC 296-155-410(7), Welding and Cutting Fire Prevention
- WAC 296-155-415(2), Ventilation and Protection in Welding, Cutting, and Heating
- WAC 296-155-415(3), Ventilation and Protection in Welding, Cutting, and Heating
- WAC 296-155-655, General Protection Requirements
- WAC 296-155-657, Requirements for Protective Systems
- WAC 296-155 part Q, Underground Construction

Safety Standards for Shipyards, Ship Breaking and Repair, Chapter 296-304

- WAC 296-304-01005, Competent Person
- WAC 296-304-020 through 02015, Confined and Enclosed Spaces and other dangerous Atmospheres in Shipyard Employment
- WAC 296-304-030 through -03009, Surface Preparation and Preservation
- WAC 296-304-040 through -04013, Welding, Cutting, and Heating
- WAC 296-304-080 through -08011, Tools and Related Equipment

Safety Standards for Fire Fighters, Chapter 296-305

- WAC 296-305-05003, Confined Space Rescue Operations

Example Confined Space Entry Programs

Use with the Confined Spaces book, Chapter 296-809 WAC

These example confined space entry programs are provided for your information, and to help you determine the information needed for your program.

To develop an effective program for your facility or work environment, you will need to identify work conditions both typical to your industry and unique to your workplace. You also need to consider other rules. For a list of rules in other chapters that cover confined spaces, see the Resources section of the Confined Spaces book.

Example Confined Space Entry Program for Sewer Entry

The sections that follow apply only to permit-required confined space entry. The information on alternate entry has been identified with a title.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Check the boxes after you have reviewed your workplace for these hazards.

Employees could be exposed to the following:

- Engulfment and drowning**
- Presence of toxic gases**

Equal to or more than 10 ppm hydrogen sulfide measured as an eight-hour time-weighted average. If the presence of other toxic contaminants is suspected, specific monitoring programs will be developed.

- Presence of explosive/flammable gases**

Equal to or greater than ten percent of the lower flammable limit (LFL)

- Oxygen deficiency**

A concentration of oxygen in the atmosphere equal to or less than 19.5% by volume.

ENTRY PERMITS

Review the information in this section.

- All sewers are considered permit-required confined spaces until the pre-entry procedures demonstrate otherwise.
- Any employee required or permitted to pre-check or enter a sewer has successfully completed, at a minimum, the training outlined in our training procedures.
- A written copy of operating and rescue procedures as required by these procedures is at the worksite for the duration of the job.
- The sewer entry permit is completed before approval can be given to enter a sewer.
- The permit verifies completion of items required to protect employees.
- The permit is kept at the job site for the duration of the job.
- If circumstances cause an interruption in the work or a change in the alarm conditions for which entry was approved, a new sewer entry permit needs to be completed.

CONTROL OF ATMOSPHERIC AND ENGULFMENT HAZARDS

Review the information in this section.

Surveillance

- The surrounding area is surveyed to avoid hazards such as drifting vapors from tanks, piping, or sewers.

Testing

- The sewer atmosphere is tested to determine whether dangerous air contamination or oxygen deficiency exists.
- A direct reading gas monitor is used.
- Testing is performed by a supervisor who has successfully completed the gas detector training for the monitoring method used.
- The minimum parameters to be monitored are oxygen deficiency, Lower Flammable Level (LFL), and hydrogen sulfide concentration.
- A written record of the pre-entry test results is made and kept at the worksite for the duration of the job.
- Affected employees are able to review the testing results.
- The most hazardous conditions will determine when work is being performed in two adjoining, connected spaces.

Space ventilation

- Mechanical ventilation systems, where required, are set at one hundred percent of the outside air.
- Where possible, open additional manholes to increase air circulation.
- Use portable blowers to increase natural circulation if needed.
- After a suitable ventilation period, repeat the testing.
- Entry may not begin until testing has demonstrated that the hazardous atmosphere has been eliminated or controlled.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

Review the information in this section.

**Table HT-1
Entry Procedures for Confined Space Conditions**

If you have any of the following conditions	Then follow these procedures
Testing demonstrates the existence of dangerous or deficient conditions and additional ventilation cannot reduce concentrations to safe levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All personnel are trained - A self-contained breathing apparatus is worn by any person entering the sewer. - At least one worker stands by the outside of the sewer ready to give assistance in case of emergency. - The rescue workers has a self-contained breathing apparatus available for immediate use. - There is at least one additional worker within sight or call of the standby worker. - Continuous powered communications is maintained between the worker within the sewer and standby personnel.
The atmosphere tests as safe but unsafe conditions can reasonably be expected to develop	
It is not feasible to provide for immediate exit from spaces equipped with automatic fire suppression systems and it is not practical or safe to deactivate such systems	
An emergency exists and it is not feasible to wait for pre-entry procedures to take effect	

ALTERNATE ENTRY

Review the information in this section.

Certification

- Sewers may be entered without the need for a written permit or attendant if the space can be maintained in a safe condition for entry by mechanical ventilation alone.
- All sewers are considered permit-required confined spaces until the pre-entry procedures demonstrate otherwise.
- Any employee required or permitted to pre-check or enter a sewer will have successfully completed, at a minimum, the training outlined in our training procedures.
- A written copy of operating and rescue procedures as required by these procedures needs to be at the worksite for the duration of the job.
- The sewer pre-entry checklist is completed by the lead worker before entry into a sewer. This list verifies completion of items listed below. This checklist is kept at the job site for the duration of the job.
- If circumstances dictate an interruption in the work, reevaluate the sewer and complete a new checklist.

Control of atmospheric and engulfment hazards

- Pumps and lines:
 - All pumps and lines which may reasonably cause contaminants to flow into the sewer are disconnected, blinded, and locked out, or effectively isolated by other means to prevent development of dangerous air contamination or engulfment.
 - Not all lateral lines to sewers or storm drains require blocking. However, where experience or knowledge of use indicates a reasonable potential for contamination of air or engulfment into an occupied sewer, then all affected lateral lines are to be blocked.
 - If blocking or isolation requires entry into the sewer, the provisions for entry into a permit-required confined space are implemented.
- Surveillance:
 - The surrounding area is surveyed to avoid hazards such as drifting vapors from the tanks, piping, or sewers.
- Testing:
 - The atmosphere within the sewer will be tested to determine whether dangerous air contamination or oxygen deficiency exists.
 - Detector tubes, alarm only gas monitors, and explosion meters are examples of monitoring equipment that may be used to test sewer atmospheres.
 - Testing is performed by a lead worker who has successfully completed the gas detector training for the monitoring method to be used.
 - The minimum parameters to be monitored are oxygen deficiency, LFL, and hydrogen sulfide concentration.
 - A written record of the pre-entry test results are made and kept at the worksite for the duration of the job.
 - The supervisor will certify in writing, based upon the results of the pre-entry testing, that all hazards have been eliminated or controlled.
 - Affected employees are able to review the testing results.
 - The most hazardous conditions will determine when work is being performed in two adjoining, connecting spaces.

Entry procedures

When entering without permit or an attendant, entry into and work within may proceed if:

- There are no non-atmospheric hazards present
- The pre-entry tests show there is no dangerous air contamination or oxygen deficiency within the space; and there is no reason to believe that any is likely to develop
- Continuous testing of the atmosphere in the immediate vicinity of the workers within the space is accomplished
- Workers will immediately leave the sewer when any of the gas monitor alarm set points are reached as defined
- Workers will not return to the area until a supervisor who has completed the gas detector training has used a direct reading gas detector to evaluate the situation and has determined that it is safe to enter.

- If you are entering a space without a permit or an attendant
 - Arrangements for rescue services are not required for entries that do not require a permit.
 - See the “rescue” section for instructions regarding rescue planning where an entry permit is required.

RESCUE

- Review the information in this section and check the boxes that apply.
 - Call the local rescue services for rescue.
 - Rescue entries into sewers are made only by trained and properly equipped personnel.
 - If immediate hazards to injured personnel are present, workers at the site implement emergency procedures without entering the sewer.
 - Continuous gas monitoring is performed during all sewer entry operations. If alarm conditions occur, entry personnel exit the sewer and a new sewer entry permit is issued.
 - When dangerous air contamination is attributable to flammable or explosive substances, lighting and electrical equipment needs to be Class 1, Division 1 rated per National Electrical Code (NEC) and no ignition sources may be introduced into the area.
 - When it is practical, the full-body harness is used to suspend a person upright and a hoisting device or similar apparatus is available for lifting workers out of the sewer.
 - If at any time the use of a hoisting device or full-body harness and attached lifeline may endanger the worker, their use may be discontinued.
- *Review and follow the requirements for any of the situations in Table HT-2, Procedures for Removing Workers from Sewers.*

**Table HT-2
Procedures for Safely Removing Workers from Sewers**

If	Then
There is any questionable action or non-movement by the worker inside	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Perform a verbal check. – Immediately remove the worker from the sewer if there is no response or a questionable response from them
The worker is disabled due to falling or impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Do not remove the worker from the sewer unless there is immediate danger to the worker's life. – Notify local rescue personnel immediately. – Make sure the standby worker doesn't enter the sewer in this case. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only trained rescue personnel (wearing self-contained breathing apparatus-SCBA) may enter to perform a rescue. – Make sure all workers entering the space use a full- body harness with attached lifeline with the free end of the line secured outside the entry opening. – Make sure the standby worker uses the lifeline to attempt to rescue a disabled worker without entering the space and summons rescue services based on their assessment of the situation.

Example Confined Space Entry Program for Meat and Poultry Rendering Plants

Cookers and dryers are horizontal, cylindrical vessels equipped with a center, rotating shaft and agitator paddles or discs. If the inner shell is jacketed, it is usually heated with steam at pressures up to 150 psig (1034.25 kPa). The rotating shaft assembly of the continuous cooker or dryer is also steam heated.

Cooker and dryer operations can be either batch or continuous. Multiple batch cookers are operated in parallel. When one unit of a multiple set is shut down for repairs, make means available to isolate that unit from the others which remain in operation.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Check the boxes after you have reviewed your workplace for these hazards.

The recognized hazards associated with cookers and dryers include the risk that employees could be:

- Struck or caught by rotating agitator.
- Engulfed in raw material or hot, recycled fat.
- Burned by steam from leaks into the cooker/dryer steam jacket or the condenser duct system if steam valves are not properly closed and locked out.
- Burned by contact with hot metal surfaces, such as the agitator shaft assembly, or inner shell of the cooker/dryer.
- Subjected to heat stress caused by warm atmosphere inside cooker/dryer.
- Injured by slipping and falling on grease in the cooker/dryer.
- Electrically shocked by faulty equipment taken into the cooker/dryer.
- Burned or overcome by fire or products of combustion.
- Overcome by fumes generated by welding or cutting done on grease covered surfaces.

Permits

- The supervisor is always present at the cooker/dryer or other permit entry confined space when entry is made.
- The supervisor:
 - Follows the pre-entry isolation procedures described in the entry permit when preparing for entry, and
 - Makes sure the protective clothing, ventilating equipment, and any other equipment required by the permit are at the entry site.
- The permit specifies how isolation is accomplished and any other preparations needed before making entry. This is especially important in parallel arrangements of cooker/dryers so you don't have to shut down the entire operation to allow safe entry into one unit.

CONTROL OF HAZARDS

Check the boxes that apply after you have addressed the hazards below.

Mechanical

- Lock out main power switch to agitator motor at main power panel.
- Affix tag to the lock to inform others that a permit confined space entry is in progress.

Engulfment

- Close all valves in the raw material blow line.
- Secure each valve in its closed position using chain and lock.
- Attach a tag to the valve and chain warning that a permit confined space entry is in progress.
- The same procedure is used for securing the fat recycle valve.

Burns and heat stress

- Close steam supply valves to jacket and secure with chains and tags.
- Insert solid blank at flange in cooker vent line to condenser manifold duct system.

- ❑ Vent cooker/dryer by opening access door at discharge end and top center door to allow natural ventilation throughout the entry.
- ❑ If faster cooling is needed, use a portable ventilation fan to increase ventilation.
- ❑ Cooling water may be circulated through the jacket to faster reduce both outer and inner surface temperatures of cooker/dryers.
- ❑ Check air and inner surface temperatures in cooker/dryer to assure they are within acceptable limits before entering, or use proper protective clothing.

Fire and fume hazards

- ❑ Careful site preparation, such as cleaning the area within four inches (10.16 cm) of all welding or torch cutting operations, and proper ventilation are the preferred controls.
- ❑ All welding and cutting operations are required to be done based on WISHA's Welding standard, chapter 296-24 WAC, Part I, Welding, cutting, and brazing (found in another book).
- ❑ Proper ventilation may be achieved by local exhaust ventilation, or the use of portable ventilation fans, or a combination of the two practices.

Electrical shock

- ❑ Electrical equipment used in cooker/dryers needs to be in serviceable condition.

Slips and falls

- ❑ Remove residual grease before entering cooker/dryer.

Attendant

- ❑ The supervisor is the attendant for employees entering cooker/dryers.

Rescue

- ❑ When necessary, the attendant calls the employer's trained rescue team or the local fire services as previously.

Example Confined Space Entry Program for Workplaces where Portable Tanks are Fabricated or Serviced

During fabrication

These tanks and dry-bulk carriers are entered repeatedly throughout the fabrication process. These products are not configured identically, but the manufacturing processes by which they are made are very similar.

Sources of hazards

In addition to the mechanical hazards arising from the risks that an entrant would be injured due to contact with components of the tank or the tools being used, there is also the risk that a worker could be injured by breathing fumes from welding materials or mists or vapors from materials used to coat the tank interior. In addition, many of these vapors and mists are flammable, so the failure to properly ventilate a tank could lead to a fire or explosion.

Control of hazards

- Welding
 - Use local exhaust ventilation to remove welding fumes once the tank or carrier is completed to the point that workers may enter and exit only through a manhole. (Follow the requirements of chapter 296-24 WAC, Part I, Welding, cutting and brazing, found in another chapter).
 - Do not ever bring welding gas tanks into a tank or carrier that is a permit entry confined space.
- Application of interior coatings/linings
 - Control atmospheric hazards by forced air ventilation sufficient to keep the atmospheric concentration of flammable materials below ten percent of the lower flammable limit (LFL) (or lower explosive limit (LEL), whichever term is used locally).
 - Provide the appropriate respirators and use them in addition to providing forced ventilation when the forced ventilation doesn't maintain acceptable respiratory conditions.

Permits

Because of the repetitive nature of the entries in these operations, an “area entry permit” will be issued to cover production areas where tanks are fabricated so that entry and exit are through manholes.

Authorization

Only the area supervisor may authorize an employee to enter a tank within the permit area. The area supervisor determines that conditions in the tank trailer, dry-bulk trailer, or truck, for example, meet permit requirements before authorizing entry.

Attendant

- The area supervisor designates an employee to maintain communication by employer specified means with employees working in tanks to make sure they're safe.
- The attendant may not enter any permit confined space to rescue an entrant or for any other reason, unless authorized by the rescue procedure and, and even then, only after calling the rescue team and being relieved by an attendant by another worker.

Communications and observation

- Communications between the attendant and entrants has to be maintained throughout entry.
- Methods of communication that may be specified by the permit include voice, voice-powered radio, tapping or rapping codes on tank walls, and signaling tugs on a rope.
- The attendant's need to observe the work activities such as chipping, grinding, welding, spraying, for example, that require deliberate operator control to make sure they continue normally.
- These activities often generate so much noise that the necessary hearing protection makes communication by voice difficult.

Rescue Procedures

Acceptable rescue procedures include entry by a team of employee-rescuers, use of public emergency services, and procedures for breaching the tank.

- The area permit specifies which procedures are available, but the area supervisor makes the final decision based on circumstances.

Note:

Certain injuries may make it necessary to breach the tank to remove a person rather than risk additional injury by removal through an existing manhole.

- The supervisor makes sure that no breaching procedure used for rescue would violate terms of the entry permit.
- For example, if the tank has to be breached by cutting with a torch, the tank surfaces to be cut need to:
 - Be free of volatile or combustible coatings within four inches (10.16 cm) of the cutting line
and
 - The atmosphere within the tank has to be below the LFL.

Retrieval line and harnesses

- The retrieval lines and harnesses generally required under this rule are usually impractical for use in tanks. The internal configuration of the tanks and their interior baffles and other structures would prevent rescuers from hauling out injured entrants.
- However, unless the rescue procedure calls for breaching the tank for rescue, the rescue team needs to be trained in the use of retrieval lines and harnesses for removing injured employees through manholes.

REPAIR OR SERVICE OF “USED” TANKS AND BULK TRAILERS

Sources of hazards

In addition to facing the potential hazards encountered in fabrication or manufacturing, tanks or trailers which have been in service may contain residues of dangerous materials, whether left over from the transportation of hazardous cargoes or generated by chemical or bacterial action on residues of non-hazardous cargoes.

Control of atmospheric hazards

A “used” tank needs to be brought into areas where tank entry is authorized only after the tank has been emptied, cleansed of any residues without employee entry, and purged of any potential atmospheric hazards.

Welding

- In addition to tank cleaning for control of atmospheric hazards, coating and surface materials need to be:
 - Removed four inches (10.16 cm) or more from any surface area where welding or other torch work will be done
and
 - Make sure the atmosphere within the tank remains well below the LFL.

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This confined space entry program:

Identifies all permit-required confined spaces in our workplace
and

Describes our procedures for worker safety and health in permit-required confined spaces

Employees will participate in developing and implementing the program in the following ways:

(Insert how your employees will participate)

(Insert company name) will treat all confined spaces as permit-required spaces until they have been evaluated **and** are documented to be nonpermit.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The following shows which employees are responsible for the tasks outlined:

<p>For information only Remove this box from your completed program</p> <p>In addition to the roles below, you may want to designate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone with overall responsibilities for your program; or • One person with all the responsibilities. 	
Responsibility:	Person assigned this responsibility:
<p>Evaluate our work locations and determine:</p> <p>✓ [Check appropriate box(es)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confined space(s) exist at the worksite. • Permit-required confined space(s) exist at the worksite. 	
<p>Evaluate the confined space(s) to determine whether hazards are present.</p>	

<p>Evaluate hazards and determine the appropriate entry procedure for the space.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until evaluated and documented otherwise, all confined spaces will be considered permit-required spaces. • Alternate entry procedure may apply when the only hazard remaining in the space is a potential hazardous atmosphere controlled by the use of forced air ventilation. 	
<p>Re-evaluate the space when the use, configuration, or hazards of a confined space change.</p>	
<p>Monitoring and testing as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct initial monitoring to identify and evaluate any potentially hazardous atmospheres • Complete atmospheric testing in the following order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oxygen - Combustible gases - Toxic gases and vapors • Record the data (<i>specify location</i>) _____ • Keep these records on-site in (<i>Specify location</i>) _____ 	
<p>Inform exposed or potentially-exposed employees of the existence and hazards of confined spaces using the methods described below under “Control Confined Space Entry.”</p>	
<p>Provide employees entering confined spaces, or their designated representative, an opportunity to observe pre-entry testing and any subsequent testing.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All test results will be provided to the entrants or their representatives upon request. - The space will be re-evaluated if entrants or their representatives believe that the permit space was inadequately tested. 	
<p>Make sure that all equipment needed for safe entry into any confined space is available and in proper working order.</p>	
<p>Conduct a review using the canceled entry permits to identify and correct any deficiencies in our program.</p>	

IDENTIFY CONFINED SPACES AND HAZARDS

The following table provides a list of our confined spaces and hazards:

For information only
 Remove this box from your completed program
 If you have a list of confined spaces and their hazards, you can attach it instead of completing this table.

Confined Spaces and Hazards

Confined Space (name or number)	Type of Space (tank, hopper, sump, pit etc.)	Location	Hazards
<i>(Insert your confined space information)</i>			

CONTROL OF CONFINED SPACE ENTRY

We use the following method(s) to inform employees about the existence and hazards of confined spaces, and prevent unauthorized entry:

- ✓ (Check appropriate box(es))
- Posting danger signs at each permit space reading "Danger-Confined Space - Do Not Enter"

(Insert additional means you use to prevent entry)

For information only
Remove this box from your completed program

- Using barriers
- Specialized tools under management’s control to open the space
- Supplementing these measures with training and signs

PERMIT ENTRY PROCEDURES

Our entry procedures for permit spaces include the following:

For information only
Remove this box from your completed program

Examples of entry permits are included in the resource section.
You may have multiple entry procedures. Specific examples of some of the procedures you may use to enter and complete work include the following:

- Procedure 001 Lockout/Tagout (LOTO)
- Procedure 002 Atmospheric monitoring
- Procedure 003 Job Hazard Analysis

ALTERNATE ENTRY PROCEDURES

For information only
Remove this box from your completed program

Complete this section only when using alternate energy.

Our permit spaces that have as their only hazard an actual or potential hazardous atmosphere may use alternate entry procedures. These alternate entry procedures do not require the use of an entry permit.

Alternate entry procedures can be used for the spaces listed in the following table:

Confined Space Name or Number	Hazards	Method of Hazard Elimination	Potential Hazardous Atmosphere	Ventilation Equipment Required
<i>(insert your specific information)</i>				

We will do all of the following when using alternate entry procedures:

- Eliminate unsafe conditions before removing entrance covers.

- After removing entrance covers, promptly guard the opening with a railing, temporary cover, or other temporary barrier to prevent accidental falls through the opening and protect entrants from objects falling into the space.
- Certify that pre-entry measures have been taken (such as safe removal of the cover and having protection needed to gather pre-entry data), with the date, location of the space, and signature of the person certifying.
- Make the pre-entry certification available to each entrant before entry.
- Before an employee enters the confined space, test the internal atmosphere with a calibrated, direct-reading instrument for all of the following, in this order:
 1. Oxygen content
 2. Flammable gases and vapors
 3. Potential toxic air contaminants.
- Provide entrants, or their authorized representatives, with an opportunity to observe the pre-entry and periodic testing.
 - Make sure the atmosphere within the space is not hazardous when entrants are present.
- Use continuous forced air ventilation, as follows:
 - Wait until the forced air ventilation has removed any hazardous atmosphere before allowing entrants into the space.
 - Direct forced air ventilation toward the immediate areas where employees are, or will be, and continue ventilation until all employees have left the space.
 - Provide the air supply from a clean source and make sure it does not increase hazards in the space.
- Test the atmosphere within the space as needed to make sure hazards do not accumulate.
- If a hazardous atmosphere is detected during entry, we will do all of the following:
 - Evacuate employees from the space immediately.
 - Evaluate the space to determine how the hazardous atmosphere developed.
 - Implement measures to protect employees from the hazardous atmosphere before continuing the entry operation.
 - Verify the space is safe for entry before continuing the entry operation.
- The written documentation is available to each employee entering the space or to that employee's representative at the confined space bulletin board.

CLASSIFY A CONFINED SPACE AS A NONPERMIT SPACE

For information only
Remove this box from your completed program

Complete this section only when you classify a space as nonpermit. See Nonpermit Space Documentation Form in this section.

- A space will be classified nonpermit only for as long as all the hazards remain eliminated.
- If someone must enter the space to eliminate of any of the hazards, we will follow all the requirements listed under the permit entry procedures.
 - Documentation that no permit-required confined space hazards exist will include the following:

- The date, location, and signature of the person making the determination.
- How we determined that no permit-required confined space hazards exist.
- Documentation will be available to entrants or their authorized representatives by posting at the entry to the space.

The following spaces can be classified as nonpermit spaces by following the listed methods of hazard elimination:

Date	Location of Confined Space	Hazards	Method of Hazard Elimination
<i>(Input your specific information)</i>			

NONPERMIT SPACE DOCUMENTATION FORM

Nonpermit confined space name or number	<i>(Insert your specific information here)</i>
Location	
Documentation	
Date	
Signature	

TRAINING

- We will provide permit space training to employees at the following times:
 - When hired, so new employees are aware of our confined spaces
 - Before they are assigned permit space entry duties
 - When their assigned duties change
 and

- When there is a change in a space that creates hazards for which they have not been trained.

For information only
Remove this box from your completed program.

Following are 6 basic categories of training, based on duties and potential exposure:

1. Awareness training provided to all employees potentially exposed to permit spaces, covering the following:
 - a. The location and hazard of each space
 - b. The company program for confined spaces
 - c. Emphasis on **not** entering the space for any reason.
2. Entry and exit training for the following team members:
 - a. Entrants
 - b. Attendants
 - c. Supervisors
 - d. Rescue team members
3. Training on how to manage confined space entries for entry supervisors.
4. Rescue training for rescue team members.
5. Pre-entry procedure training for all:
 - a. entrants
 - b. supervisors
 - c. Attendants
 - d. Rescue team members
6. Training on evaluating and testing confined spaces for:
 - a. Entry supervisors
 - b. Staff assigned to test and evaluate the space
7. Retraining for employees when you have any reason to believe they are not proficient at their confined space duties.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CONTRACTORS

For information only
Remove this box from your completed program

Complete this section **only** when you hire a contractor to work in your confined space(s).

A copy of this Confined Space Entry Program will be provided to each contractor involved in permit space entry work at our company. Each contractor will be briefed on the following:

- The location of the permit spaces at our facility.
- Entry into permit spaces is only allowed by following the written entry program.
- The reasons for listing the space as a permit space, including both of the following:
 - The identified hazards
 - Our experience with the particular space.
- Precautions we have implemented to protect employees working in or near the space.
- Who will debrief the contractor at the completion of entry operations, or during entry if needed, on whether any hazards were confronted or created during their work.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH HOST EMPLOYERS

For information only

Remove this box from your completed program

Complete this section **only** when you are a contractor working in someone else's confined space.

Our entry supervisor will do the following to make sure entry operations are coordinated with host employers:

- Obtain any information on the hazards of the permit space and information from previous entry operations
- Determine if other workers will be working in or near the space.
- Coordinate entry operations with other workers
- Inform the host employer of the permit space program that we follow.
- Hold a debriefing conference at the completion of the entry operation, or during the entry operation if needed, to inform the host employer of any hazards confronted or created during work in the space.

RESCUE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

We have developed the following rescue and emergency action plan:

For information only

Remove this box from your completed program

1. Insert your specific company rescue and emergency plan here.
2. For more information about rescue from confined spaces, see the Helpful Tool-*Evaluating Rescue Teams or Services*
3. You need to use non-entry rescue procedures and equipment, unless this would increase the risk of injury to the entrant or would be ineffective.
4. For entry rescue, see Entry Rescue Plans in this section.
5. This section is **not** required for the following confined space entries:
 - Classified and documented nonpermit spaces.
 - Proper use of alternate entry procedures.

ENTRY RESCUE PLANS

Following are 3 options for you to consider when developing rescue plans as outlined in the helpful tool, *Evaluating Rescue Teams or Services*, which is located in the Resources section of the Confined Spaces book.

Option 1

The entry supervisor will contact (name of rescue service) at (phone number) both of the following:

- Coordinate entry
- Schedule an entry date and time.

Option 2

Complete the following information.

Train employees on the specific procedures for summoning the rescue and emergency services.

Name of rescue service: _____

Telephone number: _____

Location: _____

Approximate response time: _____

Name of emergency medical service: _____

Telephone number: _____

Location: _____

Approximate response time: _____

Option 3

The specific procedures for summoning rescue and emergency services for our workplace are:

Following are the permit spaces that require stand-by rescue services during entry. The rescue service will be available at the space during the entire entry procedure to ensure prompt entrant rescue.

Permit Spaces Requiring Stand-by Rescue Services	
Permit space:	Stand-by rescue service name and telephone number:

PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE PROGRAM REVIEW

For information only
Remove this box from your completed program
This section is not required if you only enter nonpermit spaces or use alternate entry procedures

At least every 12 months we will conduct a review using canceled entry permits to identify any deficiencies in our program. We will conduct a review immediately if there is reason to believe that the program does not adequately protect our employees, such as the following situations:

- Unauthorized entry of a permit space
- Discovery of a hazard not covered by the permit
- Detection of a condition prohibited by the permit
- An injury or near-miss during entry
- Change in the use or configuration of the space; or
- Employee complaints of permit space program ineffectiveness.

Corrective measures will be documented by revising the program. Employees will participate in revising the program, and will be trained on any changes.

If no permit space entry operations are conducted during the year, no review is needed.

Sample Confined Space Entry Permits

Use with Chapter 296-809 WAC, Confined Spaces

The following 3 fill-in-the-blank confined space entry permits can be modified to fit your particular entry. Make sure you use only the appropriate portions of the forms to create your own entry permit.

You can also design your own entry permit. You're **not** required to use the fill-in-the-blank entry permits provided here.

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY PERMIT Sample 1

Date:					
Site location or description:					
Purpose of entry:					
<hr/> <hr/>					
Supervisor(s) in charge of crews:		Type of crew (welding, plumbing, etc)		Phone #:	
Permit duration:					
Communication procedures (including equipment):					
Rescue procedures (also see emergency contact phone numbers at end of form):					
REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED (PUT N/A IF ITEM DOESN'T APPLY)		DATE	TIME	REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED (PUT N/A IF ITEM DOESN'T APPLY)	
Lockout/De-energize/Try-out				Supplied Air Respirator (N/A if alternate entry)	
Line(s) Broken-Capped-Blank				Respirator(s) (Air Purifying)	
Purge-Flush and Vent				Protective Clothing	
Ventilation				Full Body Harness w/ "D" ring	
Secure Area (Post and Flag)				Emergency Escape Retrieval Equip	
Lighting (Explosive Proof)				Lifelines	

Hotwork Permit			Standby safety personnel (N/A if alternate entry)		
Fire Extinguishers			Resuscitator—Inhalator (N/A if alternate entry)		
Add other specific information, if needed, or attach additional instructions or requirements. See the following examples in bold print.					
Line(s) to be bled/blanked:					
Ventilation equipment:					
PPE clothing:					
Respirator(s):					
Fire extinguisher(s):					
Emergency retrieval equipment:					

AIR MONITORING									
Substance Monitored		Permissible Levels		Monitoring Results					
Time monitored (put time)		<i>Record the time</i>							
Percent Oxygen		19.5% to 23.5%							
LEL/LFL		Under 10%							
Toxic 1:		___ PEL	___ STEL						
Toxic 2:		___ PEL	___ STEL						
Toxic 3:		___ PEL	___ STEL						
Toxic 4:		___ PEL	___ STEL						
REMARKS:									
Air Tester Name		ID#	Instrument(s) Used (For example: oxygen meter, combustible gas indicator, etc.)		Model # or Type		Serial# or Unit		

ATTENDANTS AND ENTRANTS			
Attendant(s) (Required for all confined space work except alternate entry)	ID#	Confined Space Entrant(s)	ID#

REMARKS:

SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZATION - ALL CONDITIONS SATISFIED

Department or phone number:

Emergency contact phone numbers: _____

Ambulance:

Fire:

Safety:

Rescue team:

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY PERMIT Sample 2

Date and time issued:				
Job site/space I.D.				
Equipment to be worked on:				
Standby personnel:				
Date and time expires:				
Job supervisor:				
Work to be performed:				
1. Atmospheric checks: Oxygen _____% Explosives _____% L.F.M. Toxic _____PPM	Time:			
2. Testers signature: _____				
3. Source isolation (No Entry) Pumps or lines blinded, disconnected, or blocked	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Ventilation modification Mechanical Natural ventilation only	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Atmospheric check after isolation and ventilation: Oxygen: _____% >19.5% Explosive: _____%L.F.M. <10% Toxic: _____PPM <10PPM H ₂ S Time: _____ Tester's signature: _____				

6.	Communication procedures:			
7.	Rescue procedures			
8.	Entry standby and backup persons successfully completed required training?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Is it current?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
9.	Equipment:	N/A	Yes	No
	Direct reading gas monitor tested:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Safety harness and lifelines for entry and standby persons:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Hoisting equipment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Powered communications:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	SCBA's for entry and standby persons:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Protective clothing:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	All electric equipment listed: Class I, Division I, Group D and non-sparking tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	Periodic atmospheric tests:			
	Oxygen _____% Time_____	Oxygen _____% Time_____		
	Oxygen _____% Time_____	Oxygen _____% Time_____		
	Explosive _____% Time_____	Explosive _____% Time_____		
	Explosive _____% Time_____	Explosive _____% Time_____		
	Toxic _____% Time_____	Toxic _____% Time_____		
	Toxic _____% Time_____	Toxic _____% Time_____		
<p>We have review the work authorized by this permit and the information contained here. Written instruction and safety procedures have been received and are understood. Entry cannot be approved if any squares are marked in the "No" column. This permit not valid unless all appropriate items are completed.</p>				

Permit prepared by: _____
Entry Supervisor

Approved by: _____
Unit Supervisor

Reviewed by: _____
Operations Manager

This permit is to be kept at the job site. Return this job site copy to the unit supervisor following job completion.

Entrants Name	Sign in	Sign out	Sign in	Sign out

CONFINED SPACE ENTRY PERMIT Sample 3

PERMIT VALID FOR 8 HOURS ONLY. ALL PERMIT COPIES MUST REMAIN AT THE SITE UNTIL THE JOB IS COMPLETED					
Date:	Site location/description:				
Purpose of entry:					
Supervisor (s) in charge of crews:	Type of crew:	Telephone #:			
Communication procedures:					
Rescue procedures (Telephone # at bottom):					
BOLD INDICATES MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO COMPLETE AND REVIEW PRIOR TO ENTRY					
Note: For items that do not apply, enter N/A in the blank					
REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED	DATE	TIME	REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED	DATE	TIME
Lockout/De-energized Tagout			Full body harness w/"D" Ring		
Line(s) Broken-Capped-Blank			Emergency Escape Retrieval Equipment		
Purge-Flush and Vent			Lifelines		
Ventilation			Fire Extinguishers		
Secure Area (Post and Flag)			Lighting (Explosive Proof)		

Breathing apparatus			Protective Clothing		
Resuscitator-Inhalator			Respirator(s) (Air-Purifying)		
Standby safety personnel			Burning and Welding Permit		
Continuous Monitoring			Yes	No	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Periodic Monitoring Frequency: _____					
Test(s)			Permissible entry level		
Percent of oxygen			19.5% To 23.5%		
Lower flammable limit			Under 10%		
Carbon Monoxide			+ 35 PPM		
Aromatic Hydrocarbon			+ 1 PPM * 5 PPM		
Hydrogen Cyanide			(Skin) * 4 PPM		
Hydrogen Sulfide			+ 10 PPM * 15 PPM		
Sulphur Dioxide			+ 2PPM * 5 PPM		
Ammonia			* 35 PPM		
* Short-term exposure limit: Employees can work in the area up to 15 minutes + 8-hour Time Weighted Average: Employees can work in the area 8 hours (longer with appropriate respiratory protection).					
REMARKS:					
GAS TESTER NAME AND CHECK # _____					
INSTRUCTIONS USED: _____					
MODEL AND/OR TYPE: _____					
SERIAL AND/OR UNIT #: _____					
SAFETY STANDBY IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CONFINED SPACE WORK					
SAFETY STANDBY PERSONS			CHECK#		
_____			_____		
_____			_____		
_____			_____		
_____			_____		

Monitoring the Atmosphere

Consider the unique circumstances of your sewer system when preparing for entry, including the unpredictability of the atmosphere. Only you can decide, based upon knowledge and experience, what are the best types of testing instruments for any specific entry operation.

- Make sure entrants are equipped with, and trained to use, atmospheric testing equipment that is capable of identifying at least the following:
 - Oxygen concentrations of less than 19.5%
 - Flammable gas or vapor of 10% or more of the lower flammable limit (LFL)
 - Hydrogen sulfide of 10 parts per million (ppm) or more
 - Carbon monoxide of 35 ppm or more
- The selected testing instruments should be carried and used by the entrants to:
 - Continuously monitor the atmosphere and
 - Warn the entrants of any potential atmospheric hazards, in the direction of travel.
- If several entrants are working together in the same immediate location, you will need to decide how many test instruments are required.
- Calibrate atmospheric testing equipment according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Oxygen or broad range tests are best suited when actual or potential contaminants **have not yet** been identified.
 - Unlike substance-specific tests, these enable overall reading of the hydrocarbons (flammables) present in the space.
 - They do not measure the levels of specific substance contamination.
- Substance-specific tests, which measure levels of specific substances, are important when actual and potential contaminants **have** been identified. They:
 - Are vitally important when deciding on appropriate entry conditions and proper protection for entrants (for example, with ventilation and personal protective equipment)
 - May not detect other potentially lethal atmospheric hazards when the sewer environment suddenly and unpredictably changes.

Protecting Against Surge Flow and Flooding

To the extent possible, sewer crews should develop and maintain a relationship with the local weather bureau and fire and emergency services. In this way, sewer work may be delayed, or interrupted and entrants withdrawn, whenever the following occur:

- Sewer lines are suddenly flooded by rain or fire suppression activities
- Flammable or other hazardous materials are released into sewers due to industrial emergencies or transportation accidents.

Large Bore Sewers

You may need to use special equipment when entering large bore sewers. This equipment could include the following:

- Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for escape purposes
- Waterproof flashlights
- Boats, rafts, and personal flotation devices (PFDs)
- Radios
- Rope stand-offs for pulling around bends and corners

Evaluating Rescue Teams or Services

Use with the Confined Spaces book, Chapter 296-809 WAC

This helpful tool will help you do the following for permit-required confined spaces in your workplace:

- Evaluate the type of rescue services you need and
- Determine how well rescue services perform

Select and use either on-site rescue teams or off-site rescue services that will minimize the potential for harm to both entrants and rescuers.

For any rescue team or service, your evaluation should consist of the following two elements:

- An **initial evaluation** where you decide whether a rescue team or service is adequately trained and equipped to perform the kind of rescues needed at your workplace in a timely manner.
- A **performance evaluation** on the performance of the prospective or existing rescue team or service during an actual or practice rescue.

For example:

During your initial evaluation you determined that an on-site rescue team would be more expensive but not more effective than an off-site rescue service. As a result, you hire an off-site rescue service.

After observing the off-site rescue service perform a practice rescue, you decide their training or preparedness is not adequate. You decide to select another rescue service or to form an on-site rescue team.

Initial Evaluation

The following information can help you determine the rescue service needs for your workplace.

For an off-site rescue service you need to, at a minimum, contact the service to plan and coordinate the evaluations required.

The following are examples that **do not** meet the requirements of WAC 296-809-50014,

Make sure you have adequate rescue and emergency services available:

- Posting a rescue service's number without contacting them
- Planning to rely on 911 emergency services without checking to see if they are able to provide them.

Note:

Whether a rescue service meets your workplace needs depends on all of the following:

- The confined spaces from which a rescue may be necessary
- The hazards likely to be encountered in those spaces.
- The number of entrants needing rescue.

Table HT-1 can help you determine whether a rescue service meets your permit-required confined space rescue needs. Use the column labeled “Results” to answer the questions in the “Task” column.

Table HT-1 Initial Evaluation Worksheet If you answer <u>no</u> to any of these questions, you will need to consider an alternative.)	
Tasks	Results
1. Determine the rescue response time needs for your permit-required confined spaces. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If entering an atmosphere that is potentially or immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH), the rescue team or service needs to be standing by at the permit-required confined space, ready to enter. • If the danger to entrants is restricted to mechanical hazards that can cause injuries such as broken bones or abrasions, a longer response time of 10 or 15 minutes might be acceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ minutes
2. Consider the amount of time required for the rescue service	

Determine if the rescue service meets all of the requirements in the Performance Evaluation Worksheet found in Table H-2.	<p>If you answered “yes” above, how soon can the plan be implemented?</p> <p>If you answered “no” and this cannot be resolved, then you need to consider an alternative.</p>
<p>Determine if a 911 service is willing to perform rescues at your workplace</p> <p>If you call 911, is a responder available?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Will the 911 responder be willing to perform rescue?</p>	<p>Rescue <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Only <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If you answered “first aid only,” then an alternative is required.</p>
<p>Have you made sure the 911 responders can perform rescues in your spaces?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Determine if there is an adequate communication method between the attendant and the prospective rescuer:</p> <p>Can a request for rescue be transmitted without delay:</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Performance Evaluation

WAC 296-809-50014, *Make sure you have adequate rescue and emergency services*, requires rescue practice at least once every 12 months if the team or service has not successfully performed a rescue within that time. This practice exercise provides you with an opportunity to evaluate the rescue service under conditions similar to your permit-required confined spaces.

First, as part of any practice session, the rescue service or another qualified party should perform a critique of the practice rescue, so that deficiencies can be corrected in:

- Procedures
- Equipment
- Training
- Number of people

Then, you should review the results of the critique and any corrections made for deficiencies identified by a “no” answer in Table HT-2. This will help you determine whether the service could be quickly upgraded to meet your needs.

Table HT-2 will help you determine:

- If the rescue service meets all of the performance requirements in WAC 296-809-50014, *Make sure you have adequate rescue and emergency services* and
- What changes may be necessary.

Use the right column labeled “Results” to answer the questions in the “Task” column.

Table HT-2	
Performance Evaluation Worksheet	
(If you answer <u>no</u> to any of these questions, you will need to take corrective action)	
Task	Result
(3) Have all team members been trained as entrants, including the potential hazards of all permit-required confined spaces, or of representative spaces, from which rescue may be needed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Can team members recognize the signs, symptoms, and consequences of exposure to any hazardous atmospheres that may be present in those permit-required confined spaces?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is every team member:	
Provided with and properly trained in the use of any PPE that may be needed to perform rescues in the facility, such as air-line respirators or fall arrest equipment?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Properly trained to perform functions during rescues, and to use any rescue equipment, such as ropes and backboards, needed in a rescue attempt?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are team members trained in the first-aid and medical skills needed to treat victims injured or overcome by the types of hazards that may be encountered in the permit spaces at the facility?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do all team members perform their duties safely and efficiently?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do the team members focus on their own safety before considering the safety of the victim?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If necessary, can the rescue service properly test the atmosphere to identify acceptable entry conditions?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Can the rescue team members identify the information that applies to the rescue from: Entry permits	
Hot work permits	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has the rescue service been informed of any hazards that may arise from outside the permit-required confined space, such as those caused by future work near the space?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If necessary, can the rescue service properly rescue injured employees from a permit space that has any of the following: A limited size opening (less than 24 inches (60.9 cm) in diameter)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Limited internal space?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Internal obstacles or hazards?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If necessary, can the rescue service safely perform an elevated (high angle) rescue?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Determine if the rescue service has a plan for each type of rescue operation at your workplace. Does the rescue service have a plan for each of the kinds of permit space rescue operations at your workplace?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is the plan adequate for all types of rescue operations that may be needed at your workplace?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Rescue practice may occur in representative confined spaces or in the most restrictive spaces. When planning a practice include any of the following features that exist in your permit-required confined spaces: <u>Space Access</u> Horizontal -- The entrance is located on the side of the permit space. Use of retrieval lines could be difficult.	Is this type of rescue a possible situation at your workplace? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Vertical -- The entrance is located: On the top of the permit-required confined space so that rescuers must climb down; or The bottom of the permit space so that rescuers must climb up, to enter the space. Rescuers may need special knowledge to safely retrieve an injured entrant.</p>	<p>Is this type of rescue a possible situation at your workplace? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A description is attached.</p>
<p><u>Entrance Size</u> Restricted – An entrance with a smallest dimension of 24 inches or less. Entrances of this size are too small for a rescuer to enter the space while using a self-contained breathing apparatus, or allow normal spinal immobilization of an injured employee.</p>	<p>Is this type of rescue a possible situation at your workplace? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>A description is attached.</p>
<p>Unrestricted – An entrance with a smallest dimension greater than 24 inches. These entrances allow relatively free movement into and out of the permit space.</p>	<p>Is this type of rescue a possible situation at your workplace? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><u>Internal configuration</u> Open -- no obstacles, barriers, or obstructions within the space. For example, a water tank.</p>	<p>Is this type of rescue a possible situation at your workplace? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Obstructed -- The space contains some type of obstacle, requiring a rescuer to maneuver around it. For example, a baffle or mixing blade. Large equipment such as a ladder or scaffold brought into a space for work purposes is considered an obstacle if the positioning or size makes rescue more difficult.</p>	<p>Is this type of rescue a possible situation at your workplace? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p>Elevated -- A space where the entrance is above grade by 4 feet or more. This type of space usually requires knowledge of high angle rescue procedures because it is difficult to package and transport an injured employee to the ground from the entrance.</p>	<p>Is this type of rescue a possible situation at your workplace?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Non-elevated -- A space with the entrance located less than 4 feet above grade. The rescue team can transport an injured employee normally.</p>	<p>Is this type of rescue a possible situation at your workplace?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Use with Chapter 296-809 WAC, Confined Spaces

Atmospheric testing of permit-required confined spaces is used so you can do both of the following:

1. Evaluate potential atmospheric hazards
2. Verify that acceptable atmospheric entry conditions exist

Evaluate Hazards

- Collect and analyze data on the atmosphere of your space using equipment that’s sensitive enough and specific enough for any hazardous atmosphere that may arise. This will enable you to:
 - Develop appropriate entry procedures and
 - Maintain acceptable entry conditions.
- Have a technically-qualified individual perform, or at least review, the following:
 - Evaluate and interpret the data
 - Identify all serious hazards
 - Develop appropriate entry procedures

Note:

Examples of technically-qualified individuals include:

- WISHA industrial hygiene consultant
- Qualified industrial hygienist
- Qualified registered safety engineer
- Qualified safety professional
- Certified marine chemist

Use with chapter 296-809 WAC, Confined Spaces

Verify that Acceptable Entry Conditions Exist

Verify that acceptable entry conditions exist by doing the following:

- If the space may contain a hazardous atmosphere, test for all potential contaminants.
 - Use the equipment specified on your permit, for the time specified by the manufacturer, to determine whether contaminants are within the range of acceptable entry conditions.
 - Measure for the time recommended by the manufacturer.
- Perform tests in this order:
 - First, perform a test for oxygen. Most combustible gas meters are oxygen dependent and will not provide reliable readings in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.
 - Next, test for combustible gases. They present an immediate threat to life, through inhalation, fire, or explosion.
 - Last, if necessary, test for toxic gases and vapors.
- Record test results, such as the actual concentration, in the appropriate space on the permit.
 - When monitoring atmospheres that may be stratified, also do the following:
 - Test the atmospheric envelope at a distance of approximately 4 feet (1.22 m) in the direction of travel, and to each side.
 - If using a sampling probe, adapt the entrant's rate of progress to the sampling speed and detector response.