

Critical Controls: Confined Spaces

Critical controls are those that must be in place if work is performed in a confined space.

Where possible, confined spaces should always be designed out; if this is not possible or a confined space already exists, the following controls must be in place.

Confined Space Permit

*See below controls

Restricted Access

All known confined spaces must be access restricted

Training

Only trained and competent persons with current certification are permitted to enter a confined space

Fit for work

Anyone entering a confined space must have appropriate fitness and health to do the job safely

Assurance

Monitor and spot check process and risk control implementation

Controls for Confined Space Permit include:

- All hazardous and combustible materials must be removed and purged before entry
- Established safe access and egress to the confined space before entry
- Air monitoring must be undertaken before entry and then ongoing throughout access
- Rescue equipment must be set up and readily available before entry
- A standby person must be established before entry
- Emergency response plan in place and persons appropriately trained to respond to an emergency
- All required PPE is available and used as required by permit