



Confined Spaces

Warning

You cannot undertake this activity in the rail corridor unless you have completed a pre work brief and work site protection plan.

Reference should also be made to the [Protocol for Entering the ARTC Rail Corridor](#) and the [Business Rules for Working in the ARTC Rail Corridor](#). Minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements must also be met in line with the [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Work Instruction](#).

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| Work Activity: | Confined Spaces | | WMS No: WHS-WI-005 |
| Coverage: | ARTC employees, and contractors directly managed by ARTC | | Version No: 1.0 |
| Developed by: | Corporate Work Health and Safety Manager | Approved by: | Executive General Manager Enterprise Services Date Approved: 14 April 2016 |

Instructions

You must follow this work method statement if you plan to enter a confined space.

A confined space:

1. is an enclosed or partly enclosed space (for example, an open topped space such as a pit or excavation more than 1.5 metres deep, a pit or tank like compartment with a single hole for entry, or a pipe), **and**
2. is a place not intended or designed primarily to be a place for work (for example, there may be restricted means of entry or exit, there may be limited ventilation and the space may be dark and/or damp), **and**
3. is an area that may be hazardous because:
 - a. the air may be unsafe because:
 - the nature of the space could mean that there is or will not be the right amount of oxygen in the air for people to breathe when inside (there could be too much or too little oxygen), and/or
 - the air could be contaminated. For example, gas, smoke or fumes could fill the space to an unsafe level. Leaking services in the space could cause this, as could stagnant water or rotting material in the space (such as dead animals or animal dung). Some work, such as welding may contaminate a space once started. Risks of being in contaminated spaces include falling unconscious and in some cases may include a fire and explosion in the space depending on the contaminant.
 - b. the area may be unsafe because if water or sewer enters the space the area could fill quickly creating a risk of engulfment, and/or
 - c. entry / exit may be more difficult than normal. In an emergency situation it may be difficult to get out of the space quickly, or get help quickly if communication from the space is restricted in any way.

Note that a railway tunnel under ordinary operating circumstances is not a confined space, however you should still speak to your supervisor before entering as some specific entry conditions may apply.

You must follow this work method statement if instructed to do so or if a sign identifies an area as a confined space. If you are not sure, treat the space as a confined space or ask for help from your supervisor.



| What are the tasks involved? | What are the hazards and risks? | What are the control measures? | Related Documents |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Plan the work | <p>Unsafe atmosphere</p> <p>Fire and explosion</p> <p>Fall from height (in to space, or within a space)</p> <p>Hazardous energy sources (water, gas, electricity, machinery)</p> <p>Engulfment / Drowning</p> <p>Entrapment</p> <p>Impaired communication ability</p> | <p>Avoid the need to enter a confined space as much as possible.</p> <p>If you must enter a confined space, arrange for a competent person to complete a confined space entry permit.</p> <p>As part of this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure there are no ignition sources near the entrance / exit or ventilation points - if entrance / exit or ventilation points are sealed, open all of these and ensure appropriate warnings (consider both confined space and risk of fall) are communicated and/or marked for others. Restrict access where possible. - turn off and (where possible) isolate any services (water, gas, electricity) or moving equipment / machinery that may be in the space. - arrange for atmospheric testing using an appropriate gas tester. Test at each entry / exit and ventilation point and at remote parts of the space where able - determine if a specific monitoring plan is needed to monitor changes in atmosphere and other possible changes (for example, rising water) - establish a suitable emergency response plan and appoint a competent rescuer / standby person (to be located outside the space) - ensure there is a process for communication between workers in the space, the standby person and network control or emergency services. Ensure any communication equipment is appropriate for the space and in working order. <p>Ensure any conditions on the entry permit are applied, that entry and exit from the space is recorded, and that the permit is withdrawn once work is complete.</p> | <p>Code of Practice Confined Spaces</p> <p>Confined Space Entry Permit</p> |



| References | |
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| <p>Standards, Codes of Practice, Guidance:</p> <p>Commonwealth Work Health and Safety Regulation (Regulations 62 to 77)</p> <p>Code of Practice - Confined Spaces</p> <p>Safe Work Australia – Workplace Exposure Standards for Airborne Contaminants</p> <p>AS 2865 – Safe Working in a Confined Space AS/NZS 1715 – Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Equipment AS/NZS 60079.29 - Gas Detectors – Selection, Use and Maintenance</p> | <p>Plant / Equipment / Tools:</p> <p>Breathing apparatus suitable for the task must be used where a hazardous atmosphere is present, or must be carried on person if there is a risk of a hazardous atmosphere developing. The minimum service time for self-contained breathing apparatus is entry time plus the maximum work period plus twice the estimated exit time as a safety margin.</p> <p>Communication and other equipment must be intrinsically safe if it is to be used in or around a confined space with a potentially flammable atmosphere.</p> <p>Gas testing equipment (including spare batteries and any associated equipment) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - measure the level of oxygen, flammable gas and any toxic gases that may be present - allow a worker to test local areas and (where possible) remote areas of a space without the need to enter the space - allow a worker to continuously test gas levels where they work - contain audible, visual and vibration alarms - be intrinsically safe <p>Confined Space Signage – “Danger – Confined Space – Entry by Permit”</p> <p>Warning tape and/or witches hats, and isolation locks / warning tags.</p> |
| <p>Training Requirements:</p> <p>Check that specific training has been recorded for workers who may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enter or work in confined spaces - issue entry permits - conduct gas testing - operate breathing apparatus - act as a standby person - act as a rescuer <p>Do not allow a worker to carry out any of the above tasks without suitable training.</p> <p>See also the Confined Spaces Code of Practice for information on training requirements.</p> | <p>Inspection / Testing requirements:</p> <p>Breathing Apparatus – ensure apparatus has been sanitised and that tanks are full. Ask a competent person to ‘double check’ equipment after fitting and before use.</p> <p>Communications Equipment – ensure equipment is functioning, has adequate ‘charge’ and will be ‘within range’.</p> <p>Gas Test Equipment – ensure equipment is functional, has adequate ‘charge’ and has ‘current calibration’. Test equipment as recommended by the manufacturer / supplier.</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – ensure correct selection and adjustment.</p> <p>Rescue Equipment – ensure equipment is laid out and ready to go if it becomes needed</p> |