The Entry Permit

Confined spaces can be very dangerous because of what they may contain, their shape and how difficult it is to get out of them.

Confined spaces are so dangerous that only specially trained people are allowed to enter them. Facilities with such spaces must create a Safe Entry Permit Procedure for these types of confined spaces.

If a confined space is identified as a permit-required space, a written entry permit is required before a worker can go into the space. This permit will include:

- the space to be entered.
- the reason for entering the space.
- the date of the entry.
- the duration of the entry.
- acceptable entry conditions.
- the hazards of the space and ways to control or remove them.
- names of workers entering the space, the stand-by person and responsible person.
- job methods and procedures to be used.
- information about atmospheric testing done on the space.
- appropriate communication procedures.
- information about rescue and emergency procedures.
- information about necessary equipment when entering the space.
- whether additional permits, such as for hot work, are needed for the work in the space.

If the space is to be entered, an entry permit must be filled out and signed before any entry activity can take place.

If problems happen during the work in the space, they must be recorded on the permit. Permits must be kept on file for at least one month.

Warning signs must be posted at entrances to all permit-required spaces to let you know a written permit is needed before entry.