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WRHA REGIONAL FACILITIES MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE
Confined Space Guideline

1.0 **PURPOSE:**

1.1 To prevent personal injury to WRHA employees, contractor workers and self-employed persons, while performing work in a confined space

1.2 To ensure site facilities develop operational procedures following these guidelines that include the responsibilities of management and workers, training plans, documentation of training, inventory of confined spaces, entry permit forms, safe work procedures, and appropriate review process.

2.0 **DEFINITIONS:**

2.1 Confined Space definitions as per Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Workplace Safety and Health Regulation Part 15 - Confined Spaces (see References section) and the Code of Practice.

Confined space means an enclosed or partially enclosed space that:

(a) Except for the purpose of performing work, is not primarily designed nor intended for human occupancy.
(b) Has restricted means of access or egress
(c) Is or may become hazardous to a worker entering it (within it) because of:
  (i) Its design, construction or atmosphere.
  (ii) The materials or substances in it.
  (iii) The work activities to be performed in it or processes used in it, or
  (iv) Any other conditions or hazards relating to it.

For the purposes of this code of practice, **hazard/risk assessment** refers to the process of identifying ways in which a worker may suffer harm while in a confined space.
As a general requirement, employers must identify and take measures to reduce, control or eliminate hazards associated with confined spaces including:

(i) Doing the work in a way that will not require a worker to enter the space.
(ii) Changing the physical characteristics of the confined space to ensure safe entry and exit.

Level A Confined Space: A confined space, which contains a hazard, which is immediately a threat to life or health. Rescue procedures require the entry of more than one individual fully equipped with life support equipment. Proper communication with the worker requires an individual to be stationed within the confined space.

Level B Confined Space: A confined space which is dangerous, but does not contain any hazards which are immediately life threatening. Rescue procedures require no more than one individual fully equipped with life support equipment. Proper communication with the worker can be via indirect methods, not requiring another worker in the confined space.

Level C Confined Space: A confined space that does not contain any exposed hazard risk capable of causing death or serious harm, or would not require special modification procedures. Standard rescue procedures in the event of worker injury can be utilized. Proper communication with the worker can be via indirect methods, not requiring another worker in the confined space. Working Alone or In Isolation procedures may apply.

2.2 Qualified Persons – a qualified person (in regards to confined spaces) is one who has been trained in the risk assessment, entry, rescue and testing required for entry into a confined space. This designation requires ongoing retraining to ensure that the individual is appropriately skilled and current in all elements of confined space entry.

3.0 **GUIDELINES:**

3.1 Confined Spaces shall be identified and assessed by qualified persons and a Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) shall be performed for each Confined Space.

3.1.1 Where the risk assessment JHA identifies work procedures, skills or equipment requirements that may create hazards, such as hot work, workers shall refer to and abide by the applicable policy for that type of work.

3.2 Classify and label all confined spaces to the varying degrees of hazards.

3.2.1 Utilize Table A. as the basis for a risk assessment and space hazard classification.

3.2.2 Classification of a space may change depending on the work being performed (i.e. welding, painting with epoxy in a class C will require risk assessment and permit).

3.2.3 Signs must be posted indicating the class of confined space at all entry points to a confined space. Danger signs are required for Class A confined spaces and must also indicate the Permit requirements. Caution signs are required for Class B & C confined spaces and must refer to reader to any site safety requirements.

3.3 Site-specific Safe Work Procedures (SWP's) for Confined Spaces shall be developed in consultation with the site Workplace Safety and Health Committee.

3.3.1 Class A spaces require site specific and job specific safety procedures. Appropriate monitoring, control of the hazards, communications, rescue procedures, standby personnel, rescue equipment and permits are required for all Class A spaces.

3.3.2 Class B spaces require site-specific safety procedures according to the risk assessment of the space. The appropriate safe work procedure must include at least supervision of the work, a rescue plan, establishing a communication system with the worker, unless the tasks carried out in the space generate site-specific hazards (which would result in job specific safety measures).

3.3.3 Class C spaces do not require any site-specific safety procedures, unless the tasks carried out in the space generate site-specific hazards (which would result in job specific safety measures).

3.4 Only qualified persons shall be assigned to work in Confined Spaces, supervise the jobs and sign any entry permits required.

3.5 All work in confined Spaces shall be carried out in accordance with Workplace Safety and Health Regulation 217/2006, Part 15 recognizing the risk assessment and risk classification of the space and the work being carried out.

3.6 When work within Confined Spaces requires equipment and/or expertise beyond the capabilities of onsite staff, the work shall be assigned to a contractor suitably trained, experienced and equipped to safely perform work within Confined Space and is CORE Certified and completed the WRHA Responsible Contractor Safety Program.

3.7 All site employees; contractor workers and self-employed persons shall follow all Confined Space entry policy and procedures while performing this type of work.

4.0 **REFERENCES:**

4.1 NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) Confined Space Entry Program

4.2 Workplace Safety & Health Regulation: Part 15: Manitoba Regulation 217/2006: Confined Spaces and the Code of Practice November 2006.

See Table A…next page

TABLE A:
RISK ASSESSMENT & CLASSIFICATION

Parameters	Class A	Class B	Class C
Characteristics	Immediately dangerous to life – Rescue procedures require the entry of more than one individual fully equipped with life support equipment – Maintenance of communication requires an additional standby person stationed within the confined space.	Dangerous, but not immediately life threatening – Rescue procedures require the entry of no more than one individual fully equipped with life support equipment – Indirect visual or auditory communication with workers.	Potential hazard – Requires no modification of work procedures – Standard rescue procedures – Direct communication with workers, from outside the confined space.
Oxygen	19.5 or less or greater than 23%	19.5% to 23.0%	19.5% to 23.0%
Flammability/ Explosion Characteristics	10% or greater of LFL/LEL	10% or less LFL/LEL	10% LFL/LEL or less
Toxicity	Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH)	Greater than OEL (Occupational Environmental Level) as per ACGIH Standards	Less than OEL

IMPORTANT: (MSDS) Material Safety Data Sheets must be used to help you determine flammability/explosion and/or toxicity levels for chemicals used in the confined space work.

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Author: Craig Doerksen
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