

Operating Procedure for Confined Space Entry

Purpose

All ECI, AC Paving, ECI Directional, and ECI Rail employees must be familiar with and follow this procedure when entry into a confined space is required. Employees will be provided with training prior to being authorized to work in confined spaces. This training will ensure that the employees will have the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their duty as **entrant, attendant, or supervisor**, safely. The training will establish employee proficiency to recognize the hazards of confined space entry and take the necessary precautions to perform their job safely.

Responsibility

The Safety Director has the responsibility to implement and maintain this program. Along with the Safety Director, the Site Safety person, Foreman, or Supervisor have the responsibility to monitor and ensure adherence to this procedure. Employees and sub's have the responsibility to follow the program elements or any other applicable regulations.

Program Elements

Confined space by definition contains all of the following elements:

1. The space is large enough and so configured that a person can bodily enter and perform assigned work and
2. The space has limited or restricted means for entry or exit and
3. The space is not designed for continuous human occupancy.

OSHA further defines confined space as 4' or more in depth.

All employees required to enter into confined spaces shall be instructed as to the nature of the hazards involved, the necessary precautions to be taken, and in the use of protective and emergency equipment required. For example, if there are mechanical or electrical hazards, equipment lockout/ tagout might have to be performed. For protection from objects falling from above hard hats are required. Entrants in confined spaces 5' or more in depth are required to wear a full body harness and be provided a means for emergency retrieval.

A **confined space entry permit** is required prior to entry of a confined space that may contain any of the following elements:

1. The space has an oxygen deficient atmosphere or
2. The space is subject to the accumulation of flammable contaminants or
3. The space is subject to the accumulation of toxic contaminants.
4. The space is subject to any other known hazards.

Expired confined space permits will be retained for record for 1 year from date of issue.