



## Confined Spaces



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"This rule will save lives of construction workers. Unlike most general industry worksites, construction sites are continually evolving, with the number and characteristics of confined spaces changing as work progresses. This rule emphasizes training, continuous worksite evaluation and communication requirements to further protect workers' safety and health."

- Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Dr. David Michaels

This standard is  
effective as of  
August 3, 2015.

### Highlights

- **UPDATED** [Frequently Asked Questions](#), June 2016.
- **NEW** [Confined Spaces Litigation Settlement - Residential Construction. Confined Spaces in Construction Qs and As \(PDF\)](#). OSHA Memo, (May 24, 2016).
- [Confined Spaces Litigation Settlement - Telecommunications \(PDF\)](#). OSHA Memo, (April 13, 2016).

Confined spaces - such as manholes, crawl spaces, and tanks - are not designed for continuous occupancy and are difficult to exit in the event of an emergency. People working in confined spaces face life-threatening hazards including toxic substances, electrocutions, explosions, and asphyxiation.

This webpage contains information on the new regulation, compliance assistance documents, and other resources OSHA has to help employers and workers understand the rule. OSHA will continue to publish new

guidance products in the coming months, and will post them here. Please check the website often for updates.

Construction workers often perform tasks in confined spaces - work areas that (1) are large enough for an employee to enter, (2) have limited means of entry or exit, and (3) are not designed for continuous occupancy. These spaces can present physical and atmospheric hazards that can be prevented if addressed prior to entering the space to perform work. This page is a starting point for finding information about these spaces, the hazards they may present, and ways to safely work in them.

## Standard

- [Confined Spaces in Construction](#) (PDF). Final Rule, (May 4, 2015).
- **UPDATED** [Reader friendly version](#) (PDF) of the upcoming [29 CFR 1926. Subpart AA](#) standard.

## Compliance Assistance Materials

- **NEW** [Is 911 your Confined Space Rescue Plan?](#) (PDF). OSHA Fact Sheet (April 2016)
- [Temporary Enforcement Policy for Residential Construction Work in Confined Spaces](#) (PDF). OSHA Memo, (January 6, 2016).
- [Protecting Construction Workers in Confined Spaces: Small Entity Compliance Guide](#) (PDF). OSHA Publication 3825, (September 2015).
- [Asphyxiation in Sewer Line Manhole](#) (PDF). OSHA Fatal Facts No. 12-2015, (July 2015).
- [Temporary Enforcement Policy for Construction Work in Confined Spaces](#). OSHA Memo, (July 2015).
- **UPDATED** [Frequently Asked Questions](#), June 2016.
- [Confined Spaces in Construction: Pits](#) (PDF). OSHA Fact Sheet, (April 2015).
- [Confined Spaces in Construction: Sewer Systems](#) (PDF). OSHA Fact Sheet, (April 2015).
- [Permit-Required Confined Spaces in General Industry](#) (PDF). OSHA QuickCards™, (OSHA 3214-2011). Also available in [Spanish](#) (PDF).

## Federal Register Notices

- [Confined Spaces in Construction](#). Proposed Rule: 72 FR 67351-67425. (November 28, 2007).

## Case Studies

- [Silent Killer in a Newly Constructed Manhole](#) (PPT). OSHA.

## Additional Information

- [Construction Confined Space Stakeholder Meetings](#). OSHA.
  - *Stakeholder Transcripts*
  - [Washington, DC October 4, 2000](#) (PDF)

- [Protecting Construction Workers in Confined Spaces: Small Entity Compliance Guide](#) (PDF). OSHA Publication 3825, (September 2015).

### Related Topics

- [Construction](#). OSHA eTool. Also available in [Spanish](#).
- [Confined Spaces](#). OSHA Safety and Health Topics Page.

- [Houston, Texas October 11, 2000 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Wakefield, Massachusetts October 24, 2000 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Remarks prepared for delivery by Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels Press Teleconference on Confined Spaces](#). OSHA Press Teleconference, (May 1, 2015).
- [Confined spaces rule could protect nearly 800 construction workers a year from serious injuries and reduce life-threatening hazards](#). OSHA News Release, (May 1, 2015).
- [Report of the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel on the Draft OSHA Standard for Confined Spaces in Construction](#). OSHA Docket S107A, (November 24, 2003).
- [Calibrating and Testing Direct-Reading Portable Gas Monitors](#). OSHA Safety and Health Information Bulletin (SHIBs), (September 30, 2013). Provides workers and employers guidance on calibrating and testing direct-reading portable gas monitors (hereafter, "DRPGMs" or "instruments").
- [Confined Spaces](#). National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Workplace Safety and Health Topic.



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