

The confined space requirements in the existing **Industrial, Construction, Health Care and Mining Regulations** have **changed**. The Ministry of Labour has updated the requirements by amending each of the sector specific regulations. The amended regulations were filed on December 8, 2005 and printed in the Ontario Gazette on December 24, 2005. The new confined space requirements have been in effect since September 30, 2006.

Who is affected by the legislation?

Anyone that has a confined space present in their workplace is affected by the Confined Space Legislation.

What if I am not covered by the Industrial Establishments Regulation?

The Ministry of Labour has developed a separate, stand-alone *Confined Spaces Regulation* (O. Reg. 632/05) for confined spaces in workplaces covered only by the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The basic requirements of the stand-alone regulation are similar to the requirements for the Construction, Mining, Health Care, and Industrial sectors.

What is the definition of a confined space?

The confined space definition in the *Industrial Establishments Regulation* (O. Reg. 851) states:

- > A confined space is defined as a fully or partially enclosed space
- > It is a space that is not designed and constructed for continuous human occupancy
- > It is a space where atmospheric hazards may happen because of the construction of the space and the location of the space
- > It is a space where atmospheric hazards may occur because of the contents in the space or because of work that is done in the space

You **don't** have a confined space if the space is designed and constructed for continuous human occupancy. For example, a control room that employees enter and exit to do work on a regular basis is NOT a confined space.

What are some examples of confined spaces?

Some examples of potential confined spaces include:

- > Tanks, drums
- > Tank cars, holds
- > Manholes, sewers, shafts
- > Silos, bins, hoppers
- > Tunnels, culverts
- > Vaults, lockers
- > Cellars, pits
- > Vats, tanks, vessels, tubs
- > Ditches, wells, walls, pits
- > Pipelines, ducts

How do the confined space requirements affect my workplace?

You need to develop a written Confined Space Program for confined spaces in your workplace.

There are three parts to a Confined Space Program:

- > **Part One: Recognize or identify** a confined space
- > **Part Two: Assess** the confined space hazards
- > **Part Three: Control** the hazards by:
 - Developing a **Plan** for the confined space
 - Providing general **training for workers**
 - Creating a **Permit System**

How do I know what hazards exist in the confined space?

Do an assessment of the actual and potential hazards for each of your confined spaces. Be sure the person who does the assessment has adequate knowledge, training and experience. The assessment must be in writing.

Some examples of common confined space hazards include:

- > Atmospheric hazards (e.g., lack of oxygen or chemical gases, vapours, mists, fumes or dusts)
- > Fire and explosion hazards
- > Energy hazards (e.g., electrical, pressure, pneumatic)
- > Mechanical hazards (e.g., moving parts)

What is a confined space plan?

A confined space plan is one of the hazard controls in the confined space program. You need to create a plan for the confined spaces in your workplace. One plan may be used for two or more confined spaces if the spaces contain the same hazards and are similar in construction.

The plan must be developed and implemented by a competent person. It can either be developed separately or included in an entry permit.

The plan is required to contain procedures for the control of hazards identified in the assessment.

For example, the plan must address:

- > Clothing and personal equipment and devices
- > On-site rescue procedures and equipment
- > Lockout/isolation of energy
- > Attendants
- > Entry and exit
- > Atmospheric testing
- > Working with explosive or flammable substances
- > Ventilation and purging

Do I need to develop on-site rescue procedures?

Yes. You must develop written on-site rescue procedures for the confined space. Then, you need to train an adequate number of your workers in the on-site rescue procedures. They need to be trained to use the readily available rescue equipment. They also need to be trained in first aid and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

What type of training is needed?

The written confined space program should include both general and plan-specific training for workers that may enter a confined space.

General confined space training should cover these topics:

- > understanding the confined space legislation
- > recognizing a confined space
- > understanding the hazard assessment requirements
- > outlining the contents of a confined space plan

Plan-specific training should include understanding and applying the procedures and safe work practices in the confined space plan.

Can my workplace conduct its own training?

Yes. The employer needs to select a trainer who has adequate knowledge, training and experience to deliver confined space training. Check your own health and safety resources. You may be able to deliver in-house training. If not, consider having an outside resource such as IAPA conduct the training. For more information on training, see “What kind of training is available?”

Make sure that the training is supported by your unique confined space plan.

Who is responsible when more than one contractor is involved in entering a confined space?

The employer that contracted out the work and each company involved in confined space entry and related work has responsibilities.

If more than one contractor is involved in entering a confined space, a multi-employer environment exists. The “lead employer” (as defined in the legislation) must prepare a coordination document which explains the duties of **each** employer involved in the confined space work.

For example, the coordination document may outline that:

- Each contractor needs to provide general confined space training to their workers;
- The lead employer is responsible for training all of the contractors on the confined space plan before the work begins.

This will ensure that the same standard is being applied to all contractors and that one plan is followed when entering the confined space.

What happens if I get another company to do the confined space entry?

If your employees are **not** entering the confined space and only one contractor is involved, a coordination document is not required.

You still have a responsibility to ensure that all of the legislative requirements are being met and the work is being performed adequately.

Who can help me comply with the confined space requirements?

If your company needs assistance with evaluating your confined space program, call IAPA at **1-800-406-IAPA (4272)** and ask for an **Occupational Hygiene Specialist** from our **Technical Services Team**. For training assistance see the next question, “What kind of training is available?”

What kind of training is available?

IAPA delivers a 2-day Confined Space Entry course in cooperation with the MHS. The course is designed for individuals responsible for developing and implementing their company’s confined space program and plans. The course is valuable for Health and Safety professionals, JHSC members, supervisors who will implement the program for your confined spaces, rescue team members and employees who will be participating in the program development.

FAQs

IAPA's half day Confined Space Legislation course gives you an understanding of the legislation and how it may impact your workplace. You will learn about the legislation, responsibilities of the workplace parties, the definition of a confined space, and how the requirements in the Industrial Establishments Regulation may impact your workplace. This half day session is a complement to the 2-day Confined Space Entry Training course.

For more information, visit the IAPA website at www.iapa.ca and select "training schedules" from our Products & Services section.

Where can I go for more information?

For more information on confined spaces or the new legislation, please call our health and safety inquiries service at 1-800-406-IAPA (4272).

Refer to the following Regulations on www.e-laws.gov.on.ca for specific legislation requirements:

- > Industrial Establishments Regulation (IER)
- > Confined Spaces Regulation (CSR)
- > Construction Projects Regulation (CPR)

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Website: www.iapa.ca