

# CONFINED SPACE ENTRY

## Confined Space Definition

1. Has adequate size and configuration for employee entry,
2. Has limited means for access or egress, and
3. Is not designed for continuous employee occupancy.

## Permit-Required Confined Space Definition

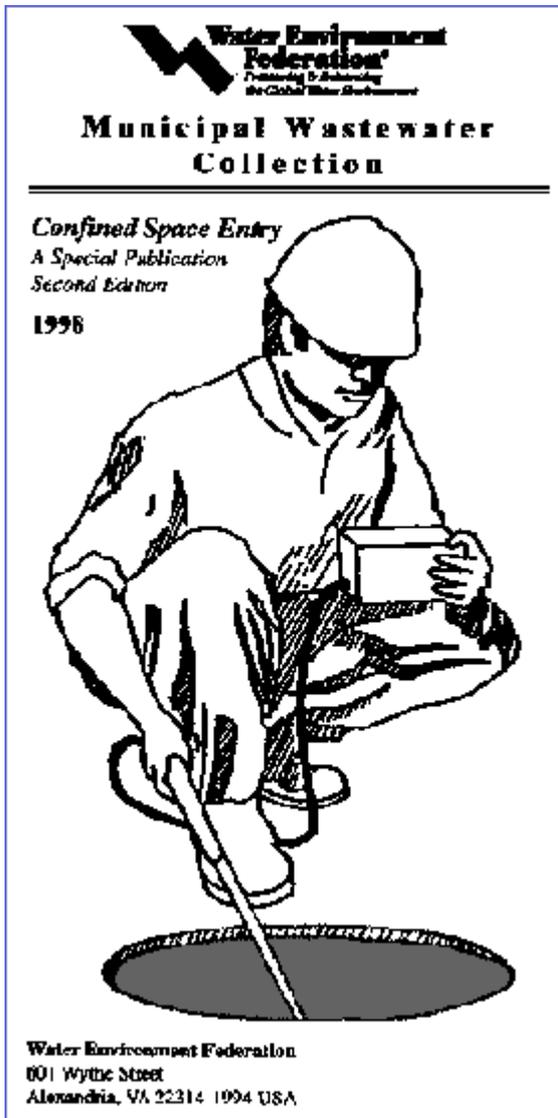
Permit space means a confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics (OSHA, 1993):

1. Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere,
2. Contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant,
3. Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section, or
4. Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

The first step for managers regarding confined spaces is to identify all permit-required confined spaces under their jurisdiction according to the above definitions.

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### Entry Definition

Entry means the action by which a person passes through an opening to a permit-required confined space. Entry includes ensuing work activities in that space and is considered to have occurred as soon as any part of the entrant's body breaks the plane of an opening to the space.

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Confined Spaces are those locations not intended for human occupancy and that represent certain hazards of toxic and flammable gases, asphyxiation, and entrapment. Improper entry into confined spaces still represents a significant danger in industry.

I had the opportunity to participate with a team of other engineers and facility operators to coauthor a Special Publication on Confined Space Entry earlier this year. Above is some descriptive material about that publication.

If you or your clients are involved in confined space entry, I suggest you consider this publication for your library.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Hutter, Ph.D.