

Workplace Safety and Health (Confined Spaces) Regulations 2009

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No. S 462

**WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT
(CHAPTER 354A)**

**WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH (CONFINED SPACES) REGULATIONS
2009**

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 65 of the Workplace Safety and Health Act, the Minister for Manpower hereby makes the following Regulations:

PART I
PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Workplace Safety and Health (Confined Spaces) Regulations 2009 and shall come into operation on 1st November 2009.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires —

“authorised manager” means an authorised manager appointed under regulation 9 and includes any other person appointed to perform the duties of an authorised manager by the responsible person;

“competent person” means a person who has sufficient experience and training to perform the work required to be carried out;

“confined space” means any chamber, tank, manhole, vat, silo, pit, pipe, flue or other enclosed space, in which —

- (a) dangerous gases, vapours or fumes are liable to be present to such an extent as to involve a risk of fire or explosion, or persons being overcome thereby;
- (b) the supply of air is inadequate, or is likely to be reduced to be inadequate, for sustaining life; or
- (c) there is a risk of engulfment by material;

“confined space attendant” means a confined space attendant appointed under regulation 22;

“confined space entry permit” means a permit issued under regulation 13;

“confined space safety assessor” means a confined space safety assessor appointed under regulation 9(b);

“entry” means ingress by a person into a confined space which occurs when the person’s head passes through an opening into the confined space;

“hazardous atmosphere” means an atmosphere where —

- (a) the level of oxygen in the atmosphere is not within the range of 19.5% to 23.5% by volume;
- (b) the level of flammable gas or vapour in the atmosphere is 10% or

more of its lower explosive limit; or

- (c) the levels of toxic substances in the atmosphere exceed the permissible exposure levels as specified in the First Schedule to the Workplace Safety and Health (General Provisions) Regulations (Reg 1);

“responsible person”, in relation to a person entering or working in a confined space, means —

- (a) his employer; or
- (b) the principal under whose direction he enters or works in the confined space.

Application

- 3. These Regulations shall apply in relation to confined spaces in workplaces.

PART II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Record of confined spaces in factory

4. Where a fixed and stationary confined space is sited in a factory, it shall be the duty of the occupier of the factory to —

- (a) make a record of the description and location of the confined space; and
- (b) inform persons who are liable to be exposed to the hazards of the confined space, of the existence and hazards of the confined space.

Access to and egress from confined space

5. It shall be the duty of the occupier of a workplace to take, so far as is reasonably practicable, measures to ensure that the means of entry into and egress from any confined space in the workplace are safe and without risks to the health of every person entering or leaving the same.

Opening of entrance cover of confined space

6. It shall be the duty of the responsible person of a person entering or working in a confined space which contains any substance under pressure greater than atmospheric pressure to ensure that —

- (a) the entrance cover of the confined space is not removed unless the confined space is depressurised and rendered safe for opening; and
- (b) when such entrance cover is removed, the opening to the confined space is barricaded or guarded by railings or other effective means, to prevent any person or object from falling into the confined space.

Lighting in confined space

7. It shall be the duty of the responsible person of a person entering or working in a confined space to ensure that there is sufficient and suitable lighting for such entry into or work in the confined space.

Ventilation in confined space

8.—(1) It shall be the duty of the responsible person of a person entering or working in a confined space to ensure that the ventilation in the confined space complies with this regulation.

(2) Adequate and effective ventilation shall be maintained in the confined space for the purposes of entry into and work in the confined space.

(3) The air supply for the ventilation shall be —

- (a) from a source free from contaminants; and
- (b) directed to the area where a person is or will be present in the confined space.

(4) Where exhaust ventilation is used, the exhaust air from the ventilation system shall be exhausted to a location outside the confined space where it does not present a hazard to any person.

PART III

CONTROL OF ENTRY INTO CONFINED SPACE

Implementation of confined space entry permit

9. Before any person enters or works in a confined space, it shall be the duty of his responsible person to —

- (a) appoint a person whom the responsible person reasonably believes is competent to carry out the duties of an authorised manager, as an authorised manager for the confined space;