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► Before you Enter a Confined Space

Any employee who is requested as part of their work duties to enter a confined space should assume the space is hazardous until the contrary is demonstrated.

There are several conditions outlined by the OHS regulations (2009) that must be met before an employee enters a confined space.

- The employee must have completed a Confined Space Entry Program prescribed by the WHSCC.
- Known confined spaces in the workplace must be identified. A hazard assessment must be completed and identified controls must be in place prior to work starting.
 - The hazard assessment must include a review of hazards that exist due to design, construction, location, contents of the space, or work that will be carried out in the space.
 - Additionally, where harmful vapours, gasses, fumes, mists, dusts, explosive substances and/or oxygen deficiency may exist, appropriate testing is required prior to work starting.
- A written work permit and written safe work procedures must be reviewed and understood prior to entry.
- The employee must be provided with the proper personal protective equipment that may include respiratory equipment.

For complete information on the legislative requirements regarding confined spaces go to Part XXVII of the OHS Regulations (2009)

Adapted from: www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/Regulations/rc120005.htm#511_

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