

Confined Spaces: Verify Entry Readiness

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Why this matters

A signed entry permit does not show that conditions still match the plan. Before anyone enters, connect the permit to the actual space, people, controls and rescue arrangements.

Objective: Identify the evidence required before permit-space entry.

Key hazards or failure points

Uncontrolled energy or material; unsafe atmosphere; changed work; failed communication; missing attendant; rescue arrangements that cannot be used.

Practical controls

- Use the employer's construction permit-space program and task permit. Confirm trained entry roles and required coordination with other employers.
- Establish the permit's isolation, atmosphere and other hazard controls through authorized personnel. Keep unauthorized people out.
- Provide the required attendant, communication and evaluated rescue arrangements. Do not enter to investigate an alarm or attempt an unplanned rescue.

Verify It in the Field

From outside, match space identification, task and authorized period to the permit. Confirm entrants, attendant and authorizing entry supervisor.

Have the entry supervisor connect actual test results, tester and time with acceptable entry conditions and required ongoing monitoring. Verify isolation through the designated personnel; do not enter to check it.

Check entrant-attendant communication and the evacuation signal safely. Confirm rescue availability, summons method and space-specific capability, plus required retrieval arrangements. A phone number alone is insufficient.

Stop and reassess

Do not enter, or leave under the program, for a permit mismatch, alarm, failed control, changed hazard, lost communication or unavailable required personnel or rescue. Follow permit suspension/cancellation and reauthorization procedures before reentry.

Ask the crew

1. What proves the permit matches this space and work?
2. Which change requires us to leave?
3. How is suitable rescue actually available?

Construction permit-space briefing; not entry training or a permit.

Sources: OSHA 1926.1203, 1926.1206 and 1926.1211; entry program.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/confined-space-entry-readiness