



Health & Safety Department (Safety Section)

Document Title	Technical Guidelines for Confined Spaces Entry
Document Code	DM-HSD-GU39-CSE2
Version #	V 3.0
Issue Date	30/04/2024
Superseded Issue Date	22/12/2019

 حكومة دبي GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI	Organization Unit:	Health & Safety Department	الوحدة التنظيمية:	 بلدية دبي Dubai Municipality
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	Doc Ref:	DM-HSD-GU39-CSE2	رمز الوثيقة:	

Document History Log

Any modification to the document must be reviewed and approved
as per the corporate policies and procedures of document control

Version #	Date	Prepared/reviewed by	Modifications summary
V3.0	30/04/2024	Bhagyashree Nagvenkar Omar Gouda	New corporate template

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1 Purpose

A Confined space is any space of enclosed nature where there a risk of death or serious injury from hazardous substances or dangerous conditions (e.g., lack of oxygen).

A confined space may include but is not limited to, any of the following:



- Storage tanks, tank cars, process vessels, tank trailer drums, or other tank-like compartments usually one or more manholes for entry.
- Bins, silos, pits, vats, tubs, vaults, vessels, or tanks of more than 4 feet in depth.
- Ventilation or exhaust ducts, manholes, sewers, tunnels, pipelines, and similar structures.
- Ovens, furnaces, kilns, heat exchangers, boilers, economizers, transformers, oil-circuit breakers, condensers, and similar structures.

Each industry has its own specific problems and dangers associated with the nature of its operations. Prevention of injuries to the life and health of workers requires that they are properly trained and well equipped to recognize, understand, and control the hazards they could encounter. Dubai Occupational Health and Safety Regulations Local Order No. 61 of 1991 require the employers to take adequate precautions for the safety and health of workers.

2 Scope

This technical guideline shall apply to all establishments (includes owners, managers, employees, and stakeholders) in the Emirate of Dubai, the work of which includes working in confined space.

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3 Definitions

Confined space	A confined space in occupational safety is a restricted area with limited entry and exit points, not designed for continuous occupancy, and possessing potential hazards such as poor ventilation or the presence of hazardous substances.

4 Guidelines



1. Avoid working inside confined spaces if there are alternative ways to perform work from outside using automated methods.
2. Entry into a confined space for any purpose should only be considered when all reasonably practicable steps have been taken Risk assessment, Emergency plan and required precautions.
3. The confined space shall, have adequate means of getting out. The design of vessels, tanks etc. shall take care of manhole which may be rectangular, oval, or circular in shape and be not less than 450 mm x 407 mm or 457 mm diameter.
4. No person shall be required or allowed to enter any confined space, unless:
5. Positive steps have been taken to eliminate the hazards if dangerous fumes, gases, vapors, liquids, solids, or lack of oxygen, either within the confined space or from an adjacent plant or area which might hazard the operation;
6. The confined space must be ventilated, tested, and certified to ensure that the air free from both toxic and flammable vapors and to note any decrease in the level of oxygen in the atmosphere. Testing should be carried out by a competent person using a suitable gas detector witch correctly calibrated.
7. Entry into confined space shall be controlled by a permit to work system specifying the description of work, possible hazards, personal protection required, tools and equipment to be used, gas monitoring, isolations, preparation of confined space and all other safety precautions and it should be clearly understood and followed by the workers.

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8. Mechanical and electrical isolation of equipment is essential if it could otherwise operate, or be operated, inadvertently. If gas, fume, or vapor could enter the confined space, you need to isolate the pipework. In all cases, a check should be made to ensure isolation is effective.
9. Adequate control and supervision of the work in confined space shall be maintained by responsible supervisor, in addition to buddy system.
10. Before entry, the confined space must be emptied of residues.
11. Whenever possible, additional manhole lids, access covers and outlets should be removed to improve natural draft of air. Low velocity air hoses or fans or blowers must be used for air movement.
12. Gas test of atmosphere shall be done before and during the progress of the work by a trained gas tester, at the level where work is required.
13. Where the conditions of the atmosphere are not safe or likely to change, a self-contained breathing apparatus shall be used from the time of starting and during the progress of the work.
14. Persons entering a confined space must wear safety harness/ safety belt with a lifeline and a second person as standby outside on duty should assist him in case of emergency.
15. A spare breathing apparatus and oxygen resuscitator should be made available as standby.
16. No portable electric light or any other electric appliance of voltage exceeding 24 volts shall be permitted for use inside any chamber, tank, vat, pit, pipe, flue, or any other confined space unless earth leakage protection device is provided and full isolation to the electrical connections.
17. No work shall be permitted in any boiler or furnace or boiler flue until it has been sufficiently cooled by ventilation or other method.
18. Hot work in confined space shall be done only after ensuring that the space/vessel is free from flammable gas/liquid.
19. It is not sufficient to insert a compressed air line into the confined space or to carryout gas tests at the manhole opening as the person's head will be just above the concentrated fumes which are subsequently diluted by air by the time they reach the manhole.
20. Steps must be taken to protect the persons in the confined space from fumes produced by the hot work.
21. Adequate and suitable isolated lighting must be provided to illuminate all aspects of the work and access.
22. Flameproof electrical equipment shall be used in case of possible flammable gas atmosphere.
23. Proper communication shall be established between persons inside and standby person.
24. Rescue and emergency procedures must be established.
25. Confined space entry procedures shall be developed and followed strictly.

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5 References

- Dubai Occupational Health and Safety Regulations Local Order No. 61 of 1991

6 Suggestions, Comments & Complaints

For (suggestions, comments, and complaints)	For further information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unified interactive platform that connects Dubai Government and its customers: The 04 Platform https://04.gov.ae/ ▪ ☎ Dubai Municipality - Call Center (24/7): 800900 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ✉ Safety@dm.gov.ae ▪ ☎ Dubai Municipality - Call Center (24/7): 800900