PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE DECISION FLOWCHART

Does the workplace contain Confined Spaces?
— NO → Consult TOs, OIs, and AFOSH STDs. **(STOP)**

↓ YES

Inform employees as required.

↓

Will permit space be entered?
— NO → Prevent employee entry. Do task from outside of space.

↓ YES

Will contractors enter?
— YES → Task will be done by contractors' employees. Inform contractor as required from host.
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Will both contractor and host employees enter the space?
— NO → Coordinate entry operations and prevent unauthorized entry.
↓ YES
Coordinate entry operations and prevent unauthorized entry.

↓ NO (from "Will contractors enter?")

Will host employees enter to perform entry tasks?
— NO → Prevent unauthorized entry. **(STOP)**

↓ YES

Does space have known or potential hazards?
— NO → The workplace is not a permit-required confined space.

↓ YES

Can the hazards be eliminated?
— YES → Space may be reclassified to non-permit confined space **(STOP) (1)**

↓ NO

Can the space be maintained in a condition safe to enter by continuous forced air ventilation only?
— YES → Space may be entered. **(STOP) (1)**

↓ NO

(1) Spaces may have to be evacuated if hazards arise during entry.

Prepare for entry via permit procedures.

↓

Verify acceptable entry conditions (Test results recorded, space isolation if needed. Rescuers and means to summon available. Entrants properly equipped.)
— UNACCEPTABLE → Permit not valid until conditions meet permit specifications.

↓ ACCEPTABLE

Was the permit issued by authorized signature and are acceptable entry conditions maintained throughout entry?
— NO → Emergency exits (prohibited condition). Evacuate entrants. Abort entry. (Call rescuers if needed.) Permit is void. Reevaluate program to correct and (or) prevent prohibited condition. Occurrence of emergency (usually) is proof of deficient program. No reentry until new permit is developed or issued (may require new program). Retain revoked permit for 1 year. **(CONTINUE)**

↓ YES

Entry tasks completed. Permit returned to unit and canceled. Maintain for 1 year.

↓

Audit permit and permit based on evaluation of entry by entrants, attendants, testers, preparers, etc.

Flowchart adapted from Appendix 3 of AFOSH Std 91-25, *Confined Spaces*.