

**CONFINED SPACES****Work description:** Confined Space Work Activity**Scope:** All work undertaken in confined spaces.**References:**

- U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry contained in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 1910 (29 CFR 1910) (§1910.146)
- State of Hawaii - Development Occupational Safety and Health Section (HIOSH) - Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 12, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Subtitle 8, Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division Part 2, General Industry Standards Chapter 60 (§12-60-2(b) Safety and health programs.)

**PPE and precautions**

As determined by Risk Assessment

**Competencies or qualifications**

Confined Space Entry Training

**Licenses or permits required**

Confined Space Entry Permit

**Tools and equipment required**

As determined by Risk Assessment

**Note**

*Untrained, unprotected employees are strictly prohibited from entering confined spaces or permit required confined spaces. Confined space entry operations conducted by Employees shall be performed in accordance with the HRH Confined Space Entry Program.*

**Confined Space Definition**

All

The following definition is provided so that staff may determine if a confined space condition exists:

- Is large enough and so configured that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work;
- Has limited or restricted means for entry or exit; AND
- Is not designed for continuous worker occupancy.

OSHA further defines a permit required confined space as a confined space meeting the 3 previous criteria plus at least one or more of the following characteristics:

- Contains or has a known potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
- Contains a material with the potential for engulfment of an entrant;
- Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls, or a floor which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section; OR
- Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Tanks, vaults, and tunnels are obvious confined spaces. Others are harder to identify. Test pits and excavations may be classified as confined spaces if they are large enough to be entered and worked in and if they have any of the above hazards. If the excavation or test pit meets this definition and if it is to be entered, confined space entry procedures will be implemented. An entry is considered to have occurred when any part of a person's body breaks the "plane" into the space. If there are potential hazards, as outlined above, and personnel need to enter the space, contact the HRH Safety Manager to determine how activities should proceed

**Confined Spaces Training**

Training will be provided to personnel performing confined space entry. This training must meet the intent of OSHA and state specific standards. Records of training will be kept in the HRH Training file for inclusion in company training records. Specific training shall be conducted as needed to cover hazards and controls pertinent to each task.

**Confined Spaces Conditions**

No employee will enter a confined space without adequately testing the atmosphere, assessing the potential hazards including those external and internal to the space, having adequate communication with personnel outside the space, and without using rescue and fall protection equipment, if necessary. A confined space hazard survey and entry permit will be completed prior to entry.

**Approved By:**☐ Director, Operations and Maintenance☐ Department Manager☐ Manager, HSE (Operations and Maintenance)**Signature:****Date:**

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