

Construction Safety Guidelines No. 16

Confined Space Entry

		
<p>RISK ASSESSMENT & ENTRY PERMIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that Risk Assessment (RA) is done and precautions are taken accordingly. Confined space entry permit to be obtained before entering & carrying out work in a confined space. Main contractor must ensure that the permit to work procedures & working procedures are regularly checked & audited. Confined space shall be certified by a competent person based on the test carried out by him self. 	<p>TESTING & MONITORING OF ATMOSPHERE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish testing of atmosphere prior to entry where identified in the risk assessment. Also carry out ongoing monitoring of the atmosphere whilst work is being carried out. Isolation & lock off procedure must be followed to prevent gases, liquids or other free flowing materials entering the confined space. Flameproof electrical equipment shall be used in case of possible flammable gas atmosphere. 	<p>COMMUNICATION & USE OF PPE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that there is an agreed means of communication between those in the confined space & the person(s) appointed as the look out. Use PPE as prescribed in the Risk Assessment. Escape set breathing apparatus to be provided where there is a risk of a hazardous atmosphere developing. All persons entering a confined space must wear safety harnesses to facilitate rescue in an emergency situation.
		
<p>SAFE ACCESS / EGRESS & DISPLAY OF NOTICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that safe access & egress are provided into and out of the confined space. Display appropriate warning signs & notices in languages that are easily understood by the work force. Before using open flames in a confined space, combustible gases or liquids must be removed if present. Manholes used for access should be rectangular, oval or circular in shape & be not less than 450mmX407mm or 457mm diameter. 	<p>TRAINING, SUPERVISION & EMERGENCY PROCEDURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide adequate trained supervision for the confined space working. Maintain a tally of people with name, number & time of entry & exit from the confined space for any emergency purposes. Establish & communicate an emergency procedure to deal with rescue or recovery of any workers who become injured or dehydrated. Practice the evacuation drills on regular basis. 	<p>VENTILATION & AIR QUALITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide good ventilation in the confined space to prevent stale air & ensure that the air quality remains breathable. Remove any residue that may be present & may give rise to risk to workers working in confined spaces. In case of an excessive temperature reduce the time of working shifts and give frequent breaks. Make arrangements to ensure that workers do not become dehydrated whilst working in excessive temperatures.