

**WAC 296-307-64402 Identify permit-required confined spaces.**

**IMPORTANT:**

If your workplace contains only nonpermit confined spaces and your employees do not enter another employer's confined space, you may follow only the requirements in:

- WAC 296-307-644, Identifying and controlling permit-required confined spaces; and
- WAC 296-307-654, Nonpermit confined space requirements.

**You must:**

- Identify all permit-required confined spaces in your workplace.
- Assume any confined space is a permit-required confined space, unless you determine the space to be a nonpermit confined space.
  - If you enter the space to determine the hazards, follow the requirements in WAC 296-307-650, Permit entry procedures.
  - If you evaluate the confined space and there are no potential or actual hazards, you can consider it to be a nonpermit confined space.
- Document your determination that the space is nonpermit, as required by WAC 296-307-654.

**Definitions:**

A **permit-required confined space or permit space** is a confined space that has one or more of the following characteristics capable of causing death or serious physical harm:

- Contains or has a potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere.
- Contains a material with the potential for engulfing someone who enters the space.
  - Has an internal configuration that could allow someone entering to be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor, which slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross-section.
  - Contains any physical hazard. This includes any recognized health or safety hazards including engulfment in solid or liquid material, electrical shock, or moving parts.
  - Contains any other recognized safety or health hazard that could either:
    - Impair the ability to self rescue;

**OR**

- Result in a situation that presents an immediate danger to life or health.

A **nonpermit confined space** is a confined space that does NOT contain actual hazards or potential hazards capable of causing death or serious physical harm.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060. WSR 05-01-166, § 296-307-64402, filed 12/21/04, effective 4/2/05.]