

WAC 296-307-50009 What employee protection must be provided in confined spaces? "Confined space" means a relatively small or restricted space such as a tank, boiler, pressure vessel, or small compartment of a ship.

(1) Confined spaces must be ventilated. For ventilation requirements see WAC 296-307-50011 through 296-307-50029.

(2) When welding or cutting in a confined space, the gas cylinders and welding machines must be left outside. Before operations are started, heavy portable equipment mounted on wheels must be securely blocked to prevent accidental movement.

(3) Where a welder must enter a confined space through a manhole or other small opening, means must be provided for quickly removing the welder in case of emergency. When safety belts and lifelines are used, they must be attached so that the welder's body cannot be jammed in a small exit opening. An attendant with a preplanned rescue procedure must be stationed outside to observe the welder at all times and be able to put rescue operations into effect.

(4) After welding operations are completed, the welder must mark the hot metal or provide some other means of warning other employees.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040. WSR 98-24-096, § 296-307-50009, filed 12/1/98, effective 3/1/99. WSR 97-09-013, recodified as § 296-307-50009, filed 4/7/97, effective 4/7/97. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.040, [49.17.]050 and [49.17.]060. WSR 96-22-048, § 296-306A-50009, filed 10/31/96, effective 12/1/96.]