

WAC 296-304-02005 Cleaning and other cold work. (1) Locations covered by this section. You must ensure that manual cleaning and other cold work are not performed in the following spaces unless the conditions of subsection (2) of this section have been met:

(a) Spaces containing or having last contained bulk quantities of combustible or flammable liquids or gases; and

(b) Spaces containing or having last contained bulk quantities of liquids, gases or solids that are toxic, corrosive or irritating.

(2) Requirements for performing cleaning or cold work.

(a) Liquid residues of hazardous materials must be removed from work spaces as thoroughly as practicable before employees start cleaning operations or cold work in a space. Special care must be taken to prevent the spilling or the draining of these materials into the water surrounding the vessel, or for shore-side operations, onto the surrounding work area.

(b) Testing must be conducted by a competent person to determine the concentration of flammable, combustible, toxic, corrosive, or irritant vapors within the space prior to the beginning of cleaning or cold work.

(c) Continuous ventilation must be provided at volumes and flow rates sufficient to ensure that the concentration(s) of:

(i) Flammable vapor is maintained below 10 percent of the lower explosive limit; and

Note to (2)(c)(i): Spaces containing highly volatile residues may require additional ventilation to keep the concentration of flammable vapors below 10 percent of the lower explosive limit and within the permissible exposure limit.

(ii) Toxic, corrosive, or irritant vapors are maintained within the permissible exposure limits and below IDLH levels.

(d) Testing must be conducted by the competent person as often as necessary during cleaning or cold work to assure that air concentrations are below 10 percent of the lower explosive limit and within the PELs and below IDLH levels. Factors such as, but not limited to, temperature, volatility of the residues and other existing conditions in and about the spaces are to be considered in determining the frequency of testing necessary to assure a safe atmosphere.

Note to (2)(d): See WAC 296-304-02013—Appendix B, for additional information on frequency of testing.

(e) Spills or other releases of flammable, combustible, toxic, corrosive, and irritant materials must be cleaned up as work progresses.

(f) An employee may not enter a confined or enclosed space or other dangerous atmosphere if the concentration of flammable or combustible vapors in work spaces exceeds 10 percent of the lower explosive limit.

Exception: An employee may enter for emergency rescue or for a short duration for installation of ventilation equipment provided:

(i) No ignition sources are present;

(ii) The atmosphere in the space is monitored continuously;

(iii) The atmosphere in the space is maintained above the upper explosive limit; and

(iv) Respiratory protection, personal protective equipment, and clothing are provided in accordance with WAC 296-304-090 through 296-304-09007.

Note to (2)(f): Other provisions for work in IDLH and other dangerous atmospheres are located in WAC 296-304-090 through 296-304-09007.

(g) A competent person must test ventilation discharge areas and other areas where discharged vapors may collect to determine if vapors discharged from the spaces being ventilated are accumulating in concentrations hazardous to employees.

(h) If the tests required in (g) of this subsection indicate that concentrations of exhaust vapors that are hazardous to employees are accumulating, all work in the contaminated area must be stopped until the vapors have dissipated or been removed.

(i) Only explosion-proof, self-contained portable lamps, or other electric equipment approved by a National Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) for the hazardous location must be used in spaces described in subsection (1) of this section, until such spaces have been certified as "safe for workers."

Note to (2)(i): Battery-fed, portable lamps or other electric equipment bearing the approval of a NRTL for the class, and division of the location in which they are used are deemed to meet the requirements of (i) of this subsection.

(j) You must prominently post signs that prohibit sources of ignition within or near a space that has contained flammable or combustible liquids or gases in bulk quantities:

(i) At the entrance to those spaces;

(ii) In adjacent spaces; and

(iii) In the open area adjacent to those spaces.

(k) All air moving equipment and its component parts, including duct work, capable of generating a static electric discharge of sufficient energy to create a source of ignition, must be bonded electrically to the structure of a vessel or vessel section or, in the case of land-side spaces, grounded to prevent an electric discharge in the space.

(l) Fans must have nonsparking blades, and portable air ducts shall be of nonsparking materials.

Note to (2): See WAC 296-304-02003(3) and applicable requirements of chapter 296-62 WAC, general occupational health standards, for other provisions affecting cleaning and cold work.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 18-04-096, § 296-304-02005, filed 2/6/18, effective 3/9/18; WSR 17-18-075, § 296-304-02005, filed 9/5/17, effective 10/6/17; WSR 07-17-034, § 296-304-02005, filed 8/7/07, effective 12/1/07. Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. WSR 95-04-006, § 296-304-02005, filed 1/18/95, effective 3/10/95; Order 74-25, § 296-304-02005, filed 5/7/74.]