

CONFINED SPACE EVALUATION FORM

Date: _____

Department: _____

Campus: _____

Area/Building: _____ Loc. _____ Floor _____ Room _____

Equipment name: _____

Building Rep (POC): _____

PLEASE PRINT NAME

CONFINED SPACE		Y	N
1. Size	Is the space large enough or configured to permit bodily entry?	_____	_____
2. Access/Egress	Are there limited or restricted means of access or egress?	_____	_____
3. Occupancy	The space is not designed for continuous human occupancy.	_____	_____
PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE		Y	N
4. Hazard	a. Is there a potential or actual hazardous atmosphere?	_____	_____
	If yes, explain _____		
	b. Is there a potential for engulfment or entrapment?	_____	_____
	c. Is the internal configuration such that an entrant may be Trapped or asphyxiated?	_____	_____
	d. Does the space contain any other safety or health hazard (e.g., mechanical, chemical, thermal, electrical, etc.)?	_____	_____
If yes, identify _____ (See back)			
If any of the above answers were YES, then YES must be checked for hazard.		_____	_____
5. If the only hazard checked for question 4. above was a., would continuous forced air ventilation be sufficient to maintain the confined space safe for entry?		Y	N
		_____	_____
6. Is objective monitoring data available to support question 5.?		_____	_____

Based on the answers to the above questions, define the type of confined space.

- Type of space determined:
1. _____ Nonregulated space (no, checked for one or more of questions 1-3)
 2. _____ Nonpermit confined space (yes, checked for questions 1-3 only)
 3. _____ Alternate procedure (yes, checked for questions 1-6)
 4. _____ Permit required (yes, checked for questions 1-4 only)
 5. _____ Do Not Enter

Signed _____

Date _____

Permit Required Confined Space

#4 preamble below:

Proposed paragraph (b)(23)(iv) stated, as the fourth criterion, that a space had to contain one or more of a list of four specified hazards in order to be considered a permit-required confined space. The four listed hazards were:

(1) Atmospheric hazards (proposed paragraph (b)(23)(iv)(A)), (2) Engulfment hazards (proposed paragraph (b)(23)(iv)(B)), (3) Entrapment hazards that also pose the hazard of asphyxiation (proposed paragraph (b)(23)(iv)(C)), and (4) **Any other recognized serious safety or health hazard (proposed paragraph (B)(23)(iv)(D)).**

The first three hazard characteristics provoked no controversy or substantive comment. However, some commenters (Ex. 14-84, 14-160, 14-171, 14-179) **objected to proposed paragraph (b)(23)(iv)(D) arguing that the criterion set out therein was so broad and vague that its application could result in some spaces being inappropriately designated as permit spaces.** For example, The National Solid Waste Management Association (Ex. 14-84) felt that:

The definition contained in [proposed] section 1910.146(b)(23)(iv) is too vague as currently written to be workable, specifically the provision in subparagraph (D).

Another commenter (Ex 14-62) suggested that OSHA delete the proposed criterion because “Regulation of these hazards is best left to other specific OSHA standards for these hazards.” Still another commenter (Ex. 14-63) stated that OSHA should require employers to document their determinations regarding this criterion “to assure that this [criteria] is properly considered in assessing the space.”

OSHA does not agree with the comments regarding proposed paragraph (b)(23)(iv)(D). In particular, the Agency has determined that the provision needs to be worded in the broadest possible terms so that employers are required to protect affected employees from any serious hazards, which may be confronted in a permit space. Examples of “other” serious hazards are radiation, noise, electricity, and moving parts of machinery. OSHA also believes that it is unnecessary to specify that employers document their compliance with this provision. The Agency will be able to determine, based on an inspection of a confined space, whether or not the conditions found pose hazards serious enough to warrant designating the space as a per-required confined space. In making this determination, OSHA will use the same sources of information any knowledgeable person would: national consensus standards and government and industry guidelines.

OSHA is promulgating the definitions of “confined space”, “non-permit confined space”, and “permit-required confined space” as previously described. The Agency believes, based on the rulemaking record considered as a whole, that the final rule’s definitions of these terms properly describe the spaces being regulated here, that these provisions will provide guidance to employees and employers for complying with section 1910.146, and that this will result in the best protection for employees exposed to permit space hazards