Guidance for Confined Space Entry

Highlight Key: Yellow = NC Central University  Red = Contractor  Green = Both

**Does the workplace contain Confined Spaces as defined by §1910.146(b)?**

- **NO**
  - Consult other applicable OSHA standards
  - STOP

- **YES**
  - Does the workplace contain permit-required confined spaces as defined by §1910.146(b)?

- **NO**
  - Prevent employee entry as required by §1910.146(c)(3). Do task from outside of space.
  - STOP

- **YES**
  - Inform employees as required by §1910.146(c)(2).

- **NO**
  - Will permit spaces be entered?

- **YES**
  - Task will be done by contractors’ employees. Inform contractor as required by §1910.146(c)(8)(i), (ii) and (iii). Contractor obtains information required by §1910.146(c)(9)(i), (ii) and (iii) from host.

- **NO**
  - Will contractors enter?

- **YES**
  - Both contractors and host employees will enter the space?

- **NO**
  - Prevent unauthorized entry. STOP

- **YES**
  - Will host employees enter to perform entry tasks?

- **NO**
  - Coordinate entry operations as required by §1910.146(c)(8)(iv) and (d)(11). Prevent unauthorized entry.

- **YES**
  - Does space have known or potential hazards?

- **NO**
  - Not a permit-required confined space. §1910.146 does not apply. Consult other OSHA standards.
  - STOP

- **YES**
  - Can the hazards be eliminated?

- **NO**
  - Employer may choose to reclassify space to non-permit required confined space using §1910.146(c)(7).
  - STOP

- **YES**
  - Can the space be maintained in a condition safe to enter by continuous forced air ventilation only?

- **NO**
  - Space may be entered under §1910.146(c)(5).
  - STOP

- **YES**
  - Prepare for entry via permit procedures.

- **NO**
  - Verify acceptable entry conditions (test results recorded, space isolated if needed, rescuers/means to summon available, entrants properly equipped, etc.).

- **YES**
  - Permit issued by authorizing signature. Acceptable entry conditions maintained throughout entry.

- **NO**
  - Emergency exists (prohibited condition). Entrants evacuated entry aborts. (Call rescuers if needed). Permit is void. Reevaluate program to correct/prevent prohibited condition. Occurrence of emergency (usually) is proof of deficient program. No re-entry until program (and permit) is amended. (May require new program.)

- **YES**
  - Entry tasks completed. Permit returned and canceled.

- **NO**
  - Audit permit program and permit based on evaluation of entry by entrants, attendants, testers and preparers, etc.

- **CONTINUE**

*Spaces may have to be evacuated and re-evaluated if hazards arise during entry.*