

# BREWHOUSE BULLETIN

## CONFINED SPACES

### What is a confined space?

- Large enough for an employee to enter fully and perform assigned work;
- Is not designed for continuous occupancy by the employee; and,
- Has a limited or restricted means of entry or exit.

### What is a permit-required confined space?

- Contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere;
- Contains a material with the potential to engulf someone who enters the space;
- Has an internal configuration that might cause an entrant to be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section; and/or,
- Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

### What are my requirements as an employer?

- Evaluate workplaces to determine if confined spaces are permit-required confined spaces.
- Inform exposed employees to the existence, location, and hazards associated with any identified permit-required confined space.
  - Post danger signs (ex. “DANGER - PERMIT-REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE - AUTHORIZED ENTRANTS ONLY”)
- If employees are not to enter or work in permit-required spaces, take effective measures to prevent entry.
- If employees are expected to enter permit-required spaces, develop and implement a written permit-required confined space program.

Link to OSHA Confined Space Standard: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.146>

Send questions to the OCBA Safety Committee at: [ohiocraftbeer.org/safetyquestions/](http://ohiocraftbeer.org/safetyquestions/)





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## CONFINED SPACES

If you brew beer chances are you have kettles. Kettles meet the definition of a confined space. If you enter the kettle (or break the plane of the opening) you have entered the kettle. If the kettle has a hazardous atmosphere (due to fermentation) or is fitted with moving internal parts (paddle/mixer are struck-by hazards), the kettle is considered a permit required confined space and you must address these conditions before entry. As long as we address the hazardous conditions, we can reclassify the kettle as a non-permit confined space.

A confined space classified as a permit space may be reclassified as a nonpermit space if:

- The permit space poses no actual or potential atmospheric hazards and if all hazards are eliminated without entering the space.
- Testing and inspection demonstrate that the hazards have been eliminated.
- It has been documented that the basis for determining that all hazards have been eliminated is through a certification that contains the date, location of the space, and the signature of the person making the determination.

Best Practice for the Management of Confined Spaces in Breweries: <https://www.brewersassociation.org/educational-publications/confined-spaces/>

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