Permit-Required vs. Non-Permit Confined Spaces

Introduction

A confined space is permit-required when it contains or could contain a hazardous atmosphere, engulfment hazard, trapping or asphyxiating configuration, or another recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Hazards & Controls

Classification requires evaluation of all hazards, not just an air reading. Work such as welding, cleaning, or painting can introduce hazards into a previously non-permit space.

Only use reclassification or alternate-entry procedures when every condition of the applicable rule is met and documented. Ventilation controls an atmospheric hazard; it does not by itself eliminate it or automatically make a permit space non-permit. Stop and reassess when conditions change.

Use the employer's authorized entry procedure for the applicable industry. These awareness notes do not authorize entry or replace required role-specific training.

Safety Reminders

Do not enter until required controls, authorization, and emergency arrangements are verified. Exit and report alarms, symptoms, loss of communication, or other prohibited conditions; never attempt an unauthorized rescue.

Engagement Questions

What hazards make this space permit-required, and what changes would trigger reassessment?

What site-specific hazards or changes would make us stop work?

Sources and use notice

OSHA: Permit-Required Confined Spaces (1910.146)

OSHA: Construction Confined Spaces - General Requirements

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Meeting Record & Sign-In

Permit-Required vs. Non-Permit Confined Spaces

Company: _____ Date: _____

Jobsite: _____ Presenter: _____

Time / duration: _____ Crew / shift: _____

Site-specific hazards and controls discussed

	Printed name	Signature
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Follow-up action / responsible person / due date

Signatures record participation only. They do not establish competency, certify compliance, or waive rights. Retain completed sheets under company policy. Print additional copies for larger crews.