

## Working in a Confined Space

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### Relevant Legislation and Documents

*ASNZS 2865 –2001*

*Health & Safety in Employment Regulations 1995*

A confined space is a space which has restricted means for entry and exit and has inadequate ventilation, is oxygen deficient or contaminated (for instance, spray booths, fibreglass manufacturing booths, air conditioning ducts, orchestra pits with dry ice if not vented).

These may include but are not limited to any compartment with only one person whole access for entry, open top spaces more than 1.5 metres deep such as pits that do not have good natural ventilation. All work to be carried out in such a space must be performed under strict procedures where work plans are submitted by the relevant supervisor to the production manager for approval.

This must include:

- atmospheric testing;
- ventilation;
- cleaning and purging of the space;
- appropriate respiratory protection devices;
- safety harness, lifelines/other rescue equipment;
- observer in constant contact;
- isolation/lockout of all mechanical equipment;
- delivery vessels and power within the confined space;
- signposts and barricades, and
- emergency and rescue procedures.
- Working in small, restricted areas requires special attention to ergonomic principles and where working in such areas cannot be avoided, regular short rest breaks are crucial.