

Confined Spaces Standard

AGL-HSE-STD-007.3.2

The scope of this standard applies to all AGL employees and contractors required to enter a confined space or engage in work within a confined space.

The reference numbers given to minimum controls provide a direct linkage between this standard and the Risk and Control Matrix. The Confined Spaces Methodology AGL-HSE-SDM-007.3.2 provides further explanation of how to achieve the minimum controls.

The underlined minimum controls below have been identified as being critical controls.

RCM Ref	Minimum Controls
Identifying Confined Spaces	
7.3.2.1	A process must be in place to identify confined spaces at AGL controlled sites and to record information specific to the confined space on a Confined Space Register.
Assessing Confined Spaces Tasks	
<u>7.3.2.2</u>	<u>For all identified confined spaces and all work to be carried out within a confined space a Risk Assessment must be completed, in accordance with the AGL HSE Risk Management Standard (AGL-HSE-STD-004.1).</u>
Permit to Work	
<u>7.3.2.3</u>	<u>A Permit to Work must be issued prior to any personnel entering a confined space in accordance with the AGL Permit to Work Standard (AGL-HSE-STD-004.2).</u>
Implementing Controls for Confined Spaces	
7.3.2.4	Where possible, the need for a person to enter a confined space must be eliminated. Where entry is unavoidable, controls must be implemented to minimise the risk to the person's health and safety.
7.3.2.5	All confined spaces on AGL controlled sites must be identified, access controlled and have signage erected in accordance with relevant legislation and Australian Standards.
7.3.2.6	At the completion of the work, the confined space must be secured to prevent unauthorised access.
7.3.2.7	All personnel performing testing and monitoring for confined space entry must be properly trained in the use and limitations of testing and monitoring equipment.
<u>7.3.2.8</u>	<u>Atmospheric testing must be conducted:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Where it is unknown whether the airborne concentration of a substance or mixture within a confined space exceeds the relevant exposure standard; and</u> <u>To determine if the confined space has a safe oxygen level (19.5% to 23.5%) and confirm the atmosphere free from toxic gases.</u>

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7.3.2.9	All atmospheric testing and monitoring equipment must be approved by the site, calibrated, stored, maintained and operated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
<u>7.3.2.10</u>	<u>Atmospheric monitoring must be conducted at regular intervals during work carried out within a confined space to detect any change in atmosphere that may render the confined space unsafe.</u>
7.3.2.11	At no stage must a source of ignition (equipment or other) be introduced into a confined space when there is an atmosphere that may result in a risk of fire or explosion.
7.3.2.12	Adequate and suitable Personal PPE must be made available and selected for all confined space tasks, having in consideration the specific characteristics of the confined space and the tasks being carried out.
7.3.2.13	If it is not reasonably practicable to ensure the confined space contains a safe oxygen level, or safe levels of airborne contaminants, then appropriate respiratory protective equipment must be provided.
7.3.2.14	Respiratory protective equipment must be provided and worn in situations where there is no exposure standard for a substance, or where the substance is present in an unknown concentration.
<u>7.3.2.15</u>	<u>A standby person must be present before anyone enters a confined space and must remain present until everyone is out of the confined space.</u>
<u>7.3.2.16</u>	<u>A standby person must have the communication ability to raise an alarm and to effect rescue.</u>
Emergency Preparedness and Response	
<u>7.3.2.17</u>	<u>Where work in confined spaces is carried out there must be a documented recovery rescue plan in place prior to any entry or work commencing.</u>
7.3.2.18	All persons entering a confined space must be able to maintain continuous communication with the standby person to ensure emergency procedure can be initiated.
7.3.2.19	A suitable number of personnel must be present or available and trained to properly use the PPE and rescue equipment necessary for making rescues from any of the identified confined spaces at the AGL controlled site.
Training and Competency	
<u>7.3.2.20</u>	<p><u>All work in confined spaces must only be undertaken by personnel who have completed the Enter and Work in Confined Spaces (RIIWH5202D), or equivalent course and received site specific information, instruction and/or training which includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The nature of all hazards associated with the confined space;</u> • <u>The risk control measures associated with the confined space;</u> • <u>The selection, use, fit, testing and storage of any PPE required for the confined space;</u> • <u>The confined space Permit to Work requirements; and</u> • <u>Emergency procedures for the confined space.</u>

Version	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date approved	Next Review
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