**CONFINED SPACE**

What is a Confined Space?

A confined space is a work space that is enclosed or partially enclosed that is not designed or intended for people to work in for any period of time; has restricted access/egress or only one way in or out; and is a work area that may become a hazard to the person in the manner of its design, construction, location, atmosphere, material or substances that are in it or other potentially hazardous conditions.

Examples of confined spaces in the agricultural industry include but are not limited to: silo’s, grain & feed bins, bulk milk tanks, manure storage areas, ponds, wells, silage wagons, and fuel storage tanks.

Confined Space Hazard Assessment:

Before entering a confined space, a competent person must evaluate it for potential and existing hazards. Document the hazard assessment and make it available to all workers who work in the space. When evaluating the work area, do not take into account the worker will be wearing personal protective equipment and the area may be ventilated. Do consider these as hazard controls to be used at the time of entry.

Written Confined Space Entry Procedures:

Procedures for confined space entry should be documented, workers trained on them, made available to all workers entering a confined space, kept on site where the work is to be performed, and reviewed at least once per year.

Workers are expected to follow the written procedures and use the protective and emergency equipment provided when needed.

* Atmospheric testing to include frequency of testing
* Ventilation

Confined Space Training Requirements:

Workers entering the confined space and workers who may be required to perform a rescue operation are required to be trained in confined space entry.

Certification of Conditions:

A competent person will certify through documentation the conditions tested in the confined space are likely to be maintained within a predicted and recorded range for the period the certification is valid. The certification must be posted outside of the confined space while work is performed and a record of the certification kept for at least one year.

Purging and Further Testing:

Upon testing, where the levels of the chemical, physical agent, and/or oxygen are outside the required parameters, the employer must ensure the confined space is purged until the levels are within acceptable ranges and retest levels once purging is complete.

Protective Equipment and Security Measures:

The employer must provide the following to the worker before they are permitted to enter the confined space:

* Protective and emergency equipment as per hazard assessment and control, and
* Rescue equipment to include yoke and lift for an unconscious person

The employer must ensure a competent worker outside of the confined space is:

* Directly outside of the confined space
* Able to communicate with the worker
* Able to activate the rescue procedure, if there is an emergency
* Trained in the emergency response procedure
* Maintain a record of the worker in the confined space

The employer must provide the worker, where necessary:

* A full body harness to be worn while working in the confined space
* Ensure the full body harness is worn
* Ensure the full body harness is attached to a life line as long as it doesn’t present a hazard
	+ The lifeline must be secured to an anchor point and controlled by a competent person outside of the confined space

Respiratory Protective Equipment:

The employer shall provide the correct respiratory protective equipment to the worker who enters the confined space where the chemical and physical agent levels are a hazard to the health and safety of the worker.

Positive pressure respiratory protective equipment must be provided to a worker who enters a confined space where the level of oxygen is below 19.5%.

\*\*Refer to [Part 12 of the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety General Regulations](https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/ohsgensf.htm#TOC1_12) for complete details to be compliant with the regulation and refer to the [Farm Safety Plan Workbook](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ckdoyle%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CRPYT9KRC%5CPart%2012%20of%20the%20Nova%20Scotia%20Occupational%20Health%20and%20Safety%20General%20Regulations) under hazard controls for templates on developing a policy, entry permit and rescue plan.

**CONFINED SPACE – DISCUSSION RECORD**

**Agenda:**

* Do confined spaces exist on your farm.
* Have workers been trained in confined space entry?
* Are there barriers and warning signs in areas of confined space to warn family and workers of the dangers?

Comments or safety concerns as a result of the discussion or observed since the last rally?

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Follow-up to concerns raised at previous rally?
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Action items?
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Near miss/incidents/unsafe acts/conditions to report?

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Topics recommended for future Rallies: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank the rally members for their participation.**

**Quiz Answers:** 1. T, 2. T, 3. e, 4. T, 5. T

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

1. Examples of confined spaces include: but are not limited silo’s, grain & feed bins, bulk milk tanks, manure storage areas, ponds, wells, silage wagons, and fuel storage tanks. True or False

2. Before entering a confined space, a competent person must evaluate it for potential and existing hazards. True or False

3. Before entering a confined space the farm owner must provide the following:

a. Personal Protective Equipment

b. Emergency Equipment

c. Current hazard assessment, and

d. Rescue Equipment

e. All of the Above

4. Workers entering the confined space and workers who may be required to perform a rescue operation are required to be trained in confined space entry. True or False

5.The employer shall provide the correct respiratory protective equipment to the worker who enters the confined space where the chemical and physical agent levels are a hazard to the health and safety of the worker. True or False

**Attendance RECORD**

\*This is to acknowledge that I understand and agree to actively participate in the safety meeting.

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