

# **SSC Confined Space Program**

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# Training Requirements

All personnel assigned to a permit-required confined space entry at SSC, regardless of their job task, must be trained for confined space entry. This includes entrants, attendants, entry supervisors, and rescue personnel. It is the responsibility of the employer to provide proof of training and certification prior to any entries.

**NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS  
REQUIREMENT!**

# What is a Confined Space?

A space that is:

- Large enough to enter and perform work
- Limited in the way of entry or exit
- Not designed for continuous occupancy

**It Must Be All 3 to be a confined space**



# What is a Permit-Required Confined Space?

A Confined Space that contains one or more of the following:

- Actual or potential hazardous atmosphere
- Materials that could engulf entrant
- Internal shape that could trap entrant
- Other serious hazards



# What Is A Reclassified Confined Space?

A Permit Required Confined Space may be reclassified (downgraded) to a confined space by the Cognizant Safety Organization if:

- The Permitted Space does not pose any atmospheric hazards
- Any other hazards are eliminated (not just controlled) without entry.

The space may be entered without a permit after reclassification.

# Hazard Elimination vs. Hazard Control

- There is a significant difference between **“Hazard Elimination”** and **“Hazard Control”**.
- If the space contains no hazards, an entrant is in no danger.
- If hazards are controlled rather than removed, an entrant could be in danger upon failure of a control system.
- Simply controlling hazards does not meet the criteria for reclassification.

# Safe Atmosphere Verification Tag Usage

- Commonly known as the "Green Tag" Used to show a safe atmosphere verification ("sniff") has been completed
- Used during Reclassification of Confined Spaces. This tag must be hung near the entry site

SAFE  
ATMOSPHERE  
VERIFICATION  
TAG

 NASA  
National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
John C. Stennis Space Center

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

The above location has been checked  
and is verified to be safe for  
hot work/entry until \_\_\_\_\_  
on this date.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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# **Job Specific Safety Meeting is Required Prior to Entry**

- **The Entire Crew Must Attend**
- **Review Hazards of Entry and Work**
- **Review Required PPE/Equipment**
- **Review Rescue Plan**



# The Confined Space Team

## **Entry Supervisor**

- Employee responsible for coordinating all aspects of confined space entry

## **Attendant**

- The employee who remains outside the space to monitor the entrant(s), guards against unauthorized entry, warns entrants of unusual conditions, and alerts rescue in the event of an emergency

## **Entrant**

- The employee authorized to enter the confined space and perform work

# PPE and equipment

Entrants must be familiar with and properly use equipment including:

- Testing and monitoring equipment
- PPE
- Rescue Equipment
- Ventilating equipment



# Rescue procedures

Rescue and emergency services can be performed by:

- SSC rescue team (Fire Department)
- Contractor's rescue services



# **Non-SSC Rescue Services**

Non-SSC Rescue Service providers may be employed only with concurrence from the SSC Fire Department.

Should a contractor want their employees to act as a rescue team, all equipment, training, and rescue plans must be reviewed and approved by the SSC Fire Department prior to entry activities.

# Complete the Permit

- Permit must be correctly and completely filled out prior to entry
- Can only be activated by the **Entry Supervisor's signature to be valid**
- No entry without a valid permit
- When work is completed the permit must be forwarded to Safety (copies are okay)
- Cancelled permits are kept on file for 1 year
- Only the **Entry Supervisor's signature can cancel** the permit

# When the Job is Completed

- All tools and equipment must be removed from the space
- Ensure all entrants have exited and are logged out
- Close the space
- Cancel the permit (**Entry Supervisor Only**)
- Send cancelled permit to your Safety Office

# Quality Review

- Each section of the SSC-576 has a “QA Audit” block for documentation of a quality review of the section.
- Must be filled out and discrepancies corrected.
- Review results must be forwarded to Safety for use in annual program review.

# Permits & Forms

All Permits and Forms can be found on the SSC Portal Page under the SSC Electronic Forms section

- SSC – 576 Confined Space Entry Permit
- SSC – 579 Safe Atmospheric Verification Tag “Green Tag”
- SSC – 821 Permit-Required Confined Space Reclassification Form



# Questions & Comments

