WorkSafe™ WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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WINES BRITISH COLUMBIA VQA

What is a confined space?

Is the area enclosed or partially enclosed?

An enclosed space is any area enclosed on all sides, bottom, and overhead. A partially enclosed space may have an open top or side(s) and is deep enough to restrict the natural movement of air.

Examples include pipes, vats, pits, tanks, vaults, vessels, and boilers.

NO →

YES ↓

Is the space in question large enough that a worker could enter, even partially, to perform work inside?

For example, are the openings large enough for a person to enter or put their head inside to perform inspections, repairs, or sampling?

NO →

YES ↓

Does the space in question have limited or restricted means for entry or exit?

Examples:

- If you have to crawl, climb, twist, follow a lengthy path, or exert unusual effort to enter or exit
- If there are physical obstructions such as bulkheads, machinery, narrow passages, or openings

NO →

YES ↓

Is the space designed for continuous worker occupancy?

For example, is there ongoing or regular work activity in this space? Spaces designed for frequent or lengthy human occupancy have easy points of entry and exit, adequate lighting, and sufficient ventilation to ensure a safe atmosphere. Examples include machinery and boiler rooms.

Confined spaces, however, are usually only entered for purposes such as inspection, maintenance, repair, or construction.

YES →

NO ↓

This is a confined space

Label or secure each point of access. Follow requirements in Part 9 of the OH&S Regulation.

In wineries

Typical confined spaces:

- Pits
- Sumps
- Storage tanks
- Grape presses and crushers

Other hazardous areas:

- Fermentation rooms
- Barrel cellars
- Bottling rooms

This is not a confined space

Access the hazards present and take appropriate precautions where necessary.