

# NSW FACT SHEET - CONFINED SPACE

## 1. IDENTIFY CONFINED SPACES

Confined spaces can be found in vats, tanks, pits, pipes, chimneys, silos, sewers, shafts, wells, pressure vessels, trenches and tunnels.

A confined space is an enclosed or partially enclosed space that is likely to be a risk to health and safety because of the atmosphere within the space, see full definition in clause (cl 5) of the *NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017*.

## 2. WRITTEN RISK ASSESSMENT

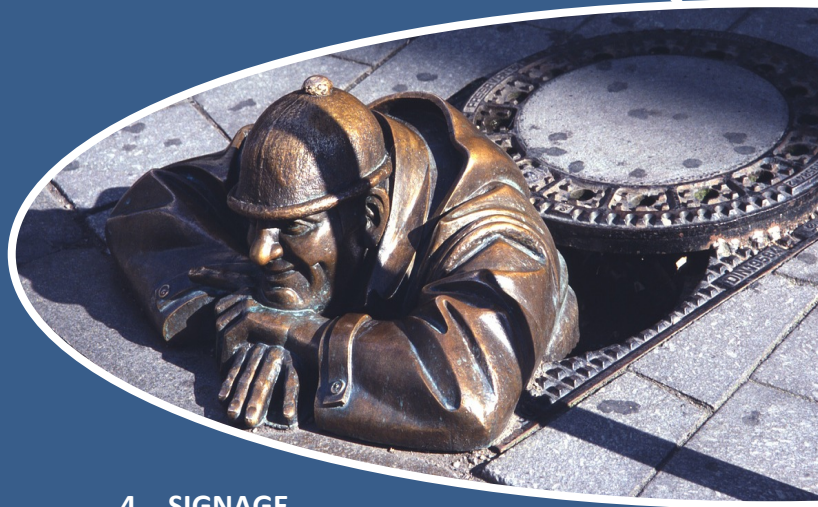
Every confined space needs a 'written risk assessment' prepared by a competent person. This is required for all risks associated with entering, working in, on or in the vicinity of the confined space (whether entry is intended, likely or inadvertent) (cl 66). Eliminate the need to enter (if possible), and physically restrict access (e.g. a structure or lock). Communicate clear control measures onsite.

## 3. IF ENTRY IS REQUIRED

Prior to entry a trained and competent person must assess the work required within the space and prepare a 'safe work method statement' (SWMS) for the 'high risk construction work' (cl 299).

A competent person must review the SWMS as part of providing a 'written entry permit' (cl 67) and keep documentation (cl 77). During work, provide specific controls, and the following:

- Continuous communication;
- Monitoring of conditions;
- Line of sight (if possible).



## 4. SIGNAGE

Signage to identify and permit entry is to be displayed at each entry. Signs must be in place immediately before, during and in completion of confined space work (cl 68).

## 5. PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES

Plan for emergencies prior to entry, including first aid, personal protective equipment (PPE) and rescue procedures. Train and practice emergency procedures before entry (cl 74-75).

## 6. INFORMATION, TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION

Relevant workers must be trained in the work being undertaken, hazards and contents of the space, all control measures, PPE and emergency procedures (cl 76).

## 7. FURTHER INFORMATION

- Part 4.3 of the *WHS Reg 2017*, visit [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au)
- *Confined Spaces Code of Practice*, SafeWork 2019, visit [www.safework.nsw.gov.au](http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au)
- Email us: [info@propertyrisk.com.au](mailto:info@propertyrisk.com.au)