



Safetyscope



*No one knows
confined spaces
like we do!*



Safetyscope

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Version 06 14

SAFETYSCOPE

Confined Space Hazard Assessments

What is an Assessment and who is qualified to do a Confined space assessments: is one that we as consultants frequently gets asked. To answer this we need to look at the specific regulations and the CSA standard.

The current Occupational Health & Safety Act (OHSA) discusses an assessment under Ont Reg 632. It states: Assessment: “Before any worker enters a confined space, the employer shall ensure that an adequate assessment of hazards related to the space has been carried out” it does not specify as to what is adequate or who should do it and the qualifications that person may need to have. The OHSA further refers to the assessment in the Program: it states that a Program shall be adequate and shall provide for “ a method for assessing the hazards to which workers may be exposed.”

The hazard assessment is not intended for the purpose of evaluating whether or not a space is a confined space. The assessment is intended to be carried out as part of the entry preparation process. It is critical to identifying the existing hazards of individual confined spaces, and the hazards that may develop during the work activity inside the confined space.

The assessment shall include and not be limited to Atmospheric testing. The regulation states: the employer shall appoint a person with adequate knowledge, training and experience to perform adequate tests.”

The CSA standard Z1006-10 Management of work in confined spaces under section 6.4.1 General , states that a competent person shall conduct a risk assessment of the hazards identified in accordance with class 6.3 dealing with Hazard identification. In this section it states “a system shall be developed to identify every hazard that could exist in a confined space in the absence of controls. Every confined space shall be considered hazardous unless a competent person (assessor) has determined it not to be hazardous after performing a risk assessment”

Knowledge, Training and Experience are the tools in the qualified persons, (person assigned the task of doing an assessment), tool bag that are needed to do an assessment. Training in the methodology of performing Job Hazard analysis (JHS), Risk assessments or Hazard Assessments would be the ideal type of training that a competent assessor would require.



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Safetyscope is primarily a confined space safety consulting company that has been in business for over 20 years. Through its history the company has an extensive track record of confined space consulting, rescue, attendant duties, assessments and training.

Over the past number of years of experience we have developed tools to assist in the process of assessments, we call it an HMP or a Hazardous Management Plan . This HMP goes beyond the requirements of assessing and recording hazards and includes a detailed rescue plan.

Prior to each job, we will complete a Hazardous Management Plan (HMP) or assessment and provide it to our clients.

The Risk assessment shall include, but not limited to, an examination of the following with the respect to each hazard:

- a. The potential magnitude, frequency and duration of the exposure to the hazards;
- b. The potential number of persons exposed;
- c. The probability of occurrence;
- d. The consequence of an occurrence and their severity;
- e. The potential for changes in or near the confined space to increase or diminish risk;
- f. Current and planned strategies for controlling the hazard;
- g. The impact of the controls on overall risk;
- h. The need for emergency response; and
- i. The impact that the hazards, risk and controls could have on emergency response,

All HMP's completed as risk assessments for clients are evaluated by senior management staff at Safetyscope as part of our quality control program.