



Restricted Spaces Standard

Restricted Spaces are not addressed under the Ontario Regulation for Confined Spaces (O.Reg. 632/05). Permits are not required for entry, as atmospheric hazards are not present. However, access to, or egress from the space may be limited and movement inside the space may be awkward or difficult. Given these limitations, at the University of Toronto, specific procedures must be established and followed to ensure the safety of those who enter and work in Restricted Spaces. Restricted Spaces are identified in the Confined Space Inventory but are clearly marked as being Restricted rather than Confined spaces.

DEFINITION (University of Toronto):

A Restricted Space is one

- which is fully or partially enclosed,
- that is not both designed and constructed for continuous human occupancy, but in which
- atmospheric hazards are not present nor likely to occur.

SCOPE:

This Standard applies to all Restricted Spaces on University of Toronto property and to any worker who performs or supervises work in these spaces.

Note: In this standard, "worker" includes faculty, staff, students and visitors.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Supervisors shall:

- ensure that all Restricted Spaces are identified, signed and included in the Confined Space Inventory;
- control access to and authorize work in these spaces;
- provide specific entry, work and emergency procedures for these spaces;
- ensure that workers are aware of and follow these procedures.

Workers shall:

- work in accordance with the entry, work and emergency procedures for the Restricted Spaces in which they perform work.



WORKING IN RESTRICTED SPACES:

The following items must be included in the procedures for entry and work in Restricted Spaces:

- Access to the space must be controlled and only authorized individuals who will work in accordance with entry, work and emergency procedures for that Restricted Space, shall be permitted access.
- Entry and work in a Restricted Space must be performed using the "buddy" system where at least one other person is present and in contact with the person in the space.
- A reliable means of communication must be available for Restricted Space Work. The method of communication must be tested prior to the commencement of work.
- Depending on the nature of the work and/or the Restricted Space, appropriate protective equipment must be provided and used.
- All sources of energy in and related to the Restricted Space must be properly controlled and locked out.
- Procedures must be in place for the removal of the worker from the space in the event of an emergency.