

Michigan Municipal Workers' Compensation Fund

Safety and Health Resource Manual

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration
Consultation Education & Training Division



ALTERNATE ENTRY PROCEDURE (c)(5) ACTION AGENDA FOR MIOSHA PERMIT REQUIRED CONFINED SPACE ENTRY

Once an employer has met requirements for paragraphs (c)(1-4), and (8), the standard allows the use of alternate entry procedures when all of the conditions below are met. See MIOSHA Part 490 – Confined Spaces. The benefits for an employer include no requirement for an attendant, no entry supervisor, no rescue provisions and reduced requirements for written documentation.

To qualify for "Alternate Entry" an employer must:

- Demonstrate and document that the only hazard posed is an actual or potential hazardous atmosphere (i.e., historical data, MSDS).
- Demonstrate and document that continuous forced air ventilation alone is sufficient to maintain the space safe for entry.
- Not introduce any hazards (i.e., uses of flammables, toxics, hot work) into the space.

Alternate Entry Procedure:

- Evaluate and eliminate any hazard to ensure that the cover to a confined space can be removed safely.
- Guard openings to spaces to prevent persons or objects from falling into them.
- Prior to entry, test the atmosphere with a calibrated, direct-read instrument for oxygen, flammability and toxicity. Record the results.
- Ensure no hazardous atmosphere will exist for the duration of the entry. Use continuous air ventilation through the breathing zone from a clean source.
- Assure safe atmospheric conditions by periodic testing and recording.
- If a hazard is detected, the entry shall be terminated, and the space re-evaluated.
- Train entrants on the hazards, equipment and safe work practices necessary to make the entry and all work performed during the entry safe.
- Certify in writing that all the above procedures have been implemented, identify the space, the date of entry, sign the certification and make it available to all affected employees.

NOTE: This document is intended as a compliance guide for MIOSHA Occupational Health Rule 325.63001-.63049 which adopts the Federal OSHA standard codified as 29 CFR 1910.146, Permit Required Confined Spaces. This guide does not substitute for a full reading of the standard.