

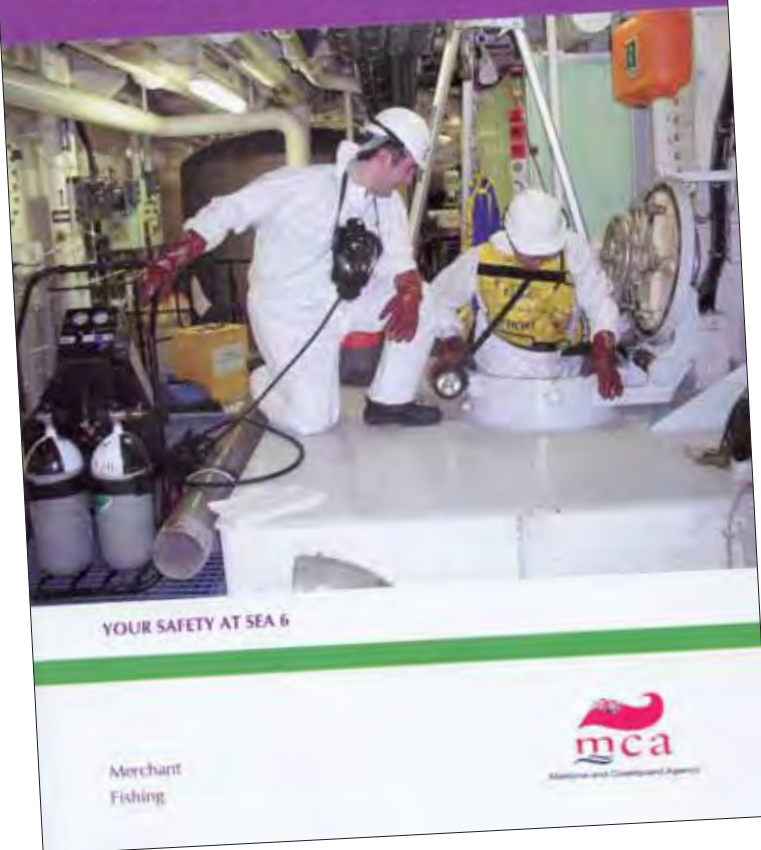
Entry into enclosed spaces



DANGER

Suffocation (asphyxiation),
Deficiency in Oxygen

ENTRY INTO ENCLOSED SPACES



Copies of the leaflet are available FREE from:

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Examples of enclosed spaces are:

cargo holds	pipe tunnels	ballast tanks
pump rooms	peak tanks	void spaces
bunker tanks	cofferdams	fresh water tanks
chain lockers	battery lockers	double bottom tanks
paint/ chemical lockers	boiler furnaces	engine crankcases

You risk your life every time you enter an enclosed or confined space without following the correct procedures.

WARNING! The space may be deficient in oxygen and / or contain flammable or toxic fumes, gases or vapours.

Oxygen deficiency - ANOXIA may be caused by:

- rusting
- rotting organic matter
- paint drying

What is a dangerous enclosed confined space?

A dangerous enclosed or confined space means a space with the following characteristics:

- severely limited natural ventilation
- capacity to accumulate or contain hazardous atmosphere
- exits that are not readily accessible and
- a design not meant for continuous occupancy

Precautions to take when entering a dangerous enclosed space.

Familiarise yourself with the advice provided in the **Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen**. This is a sound basis for establishing company procedure for entry into enclosed spaces. In addition, you must carry out a risk assessment and issue a permit to work.

Before entry -

A competent person should make an assessment of the space and a responsible officer be appointed to take charge of the operation to:

- identify the potential hazards
- prepare the space
- secure the space for entry
- test the atmosphere of the space



On entry -

- Never carry out entry work alone.
- Ensure you have a person assigned on standby for each entry.
- The standby person should be equipped with rescue equipment including self contained breathing apparatus, radio, protective clothing and boots.
- The standby person should ensure they maintain radio contact with the Bridge or Engine Control room.
- Ensure the space is well ventilated.

If things go wrong...

If you see someone lying motionless, even if at the bottom of a ladder in an enclosed space, DO NOT rush to carry out a rescue by yourself. An unplanned rescue is likely to end in tragedy as personnel repeatedly rush into lethal atmospheres under the misconception that they will be able to save colleagues.

Should an emergency occur the general (or crew) alarm should be sounded so that back-up is immediately available to the rescue team. Under no circumstances should the attendant enter the space before help has arrived and the situation has been evaluated to ensure the safety of those entering the space to undertake the rescue.

Rescue

- Rescue procedures should be established before entry.
- The rescue procedure should be specific for each type of dangerous enclosed or confined space.
- Rescue equipment including breathing apparatus should be immediately available.
- You should use self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), and NOT emergency escape breathing devices (EEBDs).
- The rescue should be practised frequently enough to provide a level of proficiency that eliminates life-threatening rescue attempts, and ensures an efficient and calm response to any emergency.

Failure to follow this advice may result in fatalities

Don't become another statistic ... work safely

Members are also advised to review the following documents:

Safe work in confined spaces. Confined Spaces Regulations 1997. Approved Code of Practice, Regulations and guidance L101 HSE Books 1997 ISBN 0 7176 1405 0 (UK HSE)

IACS
CONFINED SPACE SAFE PRACTICE No. 72, (2000) Rev.1 (October 2003)

Further Reading

- Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 S.I 1997/1713
- Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen
- International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 S.I 1992/2966
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 S.R 1993 No.20
- IMO Recommendations for entering enclosed spaces aboard ships Annex to Resolution A.864(20) adopted 27.11.97