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AS 2865—2009

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Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

## Confined spaces



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee SF-037, Work in Confined Spaces. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 13 August 2009. This Standard was published on 4 September 2009.

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The following are represented on Committee SF-037:

- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
  - Australian Industry Group
  - Australian Institute of Industrial Hygienists
  - Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
  - Australian Maritime Safety Authority
  - Australian Steel Institute
  - Department of Labour New Zealand
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  - Engineers Australia
  - NSW Department of Primary industries, Mineral Resources
  - NSW Mines Rescue
  - Local Government Association of Queensland
  - Safe Work Australia
  - Safety Institute of Australia
  - Water Services Association of Australia
- 

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Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee SF-037, Work in Confined Spaces to supersede AS/NZS 2865:2001, *Safe working in a confined space*. After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Standard as an Australian Standard rather than an Australian/New Zealand Standard.

This Standard outlines the minimum requirements for establishing a safe system for entry and the conduct of tasks in or on a confined space. These requirements are consistent with industry best practice and are considered mandatory for reducing the risks associated with confined spaces and for establishing safe entry to them. Mandatory requirements of this Standard are highlighted in bold type and contained in boxes.

The purpose of this Standard is to provide safety requirements and procedures for persons entering and conducting tasks in a confined space. It is intended to ensure that confined spaces are made safe for those entering them, and to highlight the likely hazards associated with such spaces and the relevant risk control measures necessary to deal with these hazards.

This Standard emphasizes responsibilities for safety and sets out steps that need to be taken to eliminate or control risks that may arise during confined space operations. It also requires that all persons involved in the entry of a confined space be trained, assessed as competent, and instructed on the nature of the hazards and the risk control measures to be followed.

Significant revisions in this edition of the Standard are as follows:

- (a) The criteria that constitute a confined space have been clarified in the definition.
- (b) Guidance diagrams have been provided for identifying a confined space.
- (c) Recommendations for training and competency have been introduced.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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