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Superseded by AS 2865-1995

Under Revision. See PR 910824
" " " DR 92191

AS 2865—1986
UDC 613.6.007:613.14/.15

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SAFE WORKING IN A CONFINED SPACE

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This Australian standard was prepared by Committee SF/37, Work in Confined Spaces. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 27 February 1986 and published on 5 May 1986.

The following interests are represented on Committee SF/37:

Australian Chemical Industry Council

Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists

Australian Institute of Petroleum Ltd

Australian Wine and Brandy Producers Association

Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine

Confederation of Australian Industry

Department of Defence

Department of Employment and Industrial Affairs, Qld

Department of Employment and Industrial Affairs, Vic

Department of Employment and Industrial Relations

Department of Health

Department of Industrial Relations, N.S.W.

Department of Labour and Industry, Tas.

Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria

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This standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 84286.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

SAFE WORKING IN A CONFINED SPACE

AS 2865—1986

First published 1986

PUBLISHED BY THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
STANDARDS HOUSE, 80 ARTHUR ST, NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W.

ISBN 0 7262 4151 2

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Work in Confined Spaces under the direction of the Safety Standards Board.

The standard was prepared to meet the need for requirements and procedures for the prevention of occupational injuries and fatalities associated with persons entering and working in a confined space. The standard is designed not only to ensure that confined spaces are made safe for those entering them, but also to highlight the likely hazards associated with such work areas and the relevant safe work practices necessary to deal with these hazards.

The standard emphasizes the responsibilities for safety both at the time of entry and during the entire operation. Such responsibilities cover conditions of work for an organization's own employees as well as for any contractors or other workers on the premises. Adequate steps must be taken to eliminate or control hazards and all persons involved in entry of a confined space must be trained and instructed on the nature of the hazards and the precautions to follow.

Appendices are included to list additional recommendations for the conduct of specific tasks (e.g. cleaning, hotwork) in a confined space. These recommendations list only the special precautions necessary when such tasks are undertaken in a confined space.

Because the definition of 'confined space' includes such a wide variety of situations/operations, it has been necessary to provide exemptions from *some* provisions of the standard for those organizations, particularly large instrumentalities, who have documented standing orders approved by regulatory authorities for the safe conduct of their respective operations (e.g. in sewers, telecommunication tunnels, etc).

All interests represented on the drafting committee are hopeful that this Australian standard will be considered for incorporation in statutory regulations and that uniform national requirements will be applied for work in confined spaces.

During development of this standard, reference was made to the documents listed below and acknowledgement is made of the assistance received therefrom:

(a) ILO Encyclopedia of Occupational Health and Safety—Confined Spaces 363.11/10

(b) CIS Information Sheet No 6, Entering Tanks and Other Enclosed Spaces

(c) ANSI Z117.1-1977, Safety Requirements for Working in Confined Spaces 363.11/11

(d) NIOSH Criteria for a Recommended Standard—Working in Confined Spaces 363.11/9

(e) Guidance Note GS5 from the (U.K.) Health and Safety Executive

(f) National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Occupational Health Guide—Threshold Limit Values. Q613.6/4

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CONTENTS

Page

SECTION 1. SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 Scope 4
1.2 Application 4
1.3 Referenced Documents 4
1.4 Definitions 4

SECTION 2. PERSONNEL, TRAINING, RESCUE AND FIRST AID

2.1 General Precautions 5
2.2 Training 5
2.3 Rescue and First Aid 5

SECTION 3. ENTRY

3.1 Preliminary Review 6
3.2 Isolation 6
3.3 Safety of the Atmosphere 7
3.4 Personal Protective Equipment 8
3.5 Authority to Enter Confined Space 8

SECTION 4. ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS DURING OCCUPANCY

4.1 Staffing During Occupancy 11
4.2 Portable Electrical Equipment 11
4.3 Suitability and Safety of Non-electrical Equipment 11
4.4 Approval for Return to Service 11

APPENDICES

A General Design Considerations 12
B Additional Recommendations for the Conduct of Cleaning Tasks in Confined Spaces 13
C Additional Recommendations for the Conduct of Hot Work in Confined Spaces 15
D Sample Permit Form for Confined Space Entry 17
E Example of a Typical Check List 18

ANNEX. LIST OF REFERENCED DOCUMENTS 20

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