

Group Standard

C5 – Confined spaces

Group standard	Title: Confined spaces			
	Function: Health, Safety, Environment and Communities (HSEC)			
	No. of Pages: 3			
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Owner: Global head of Health, Safety, Environment and Communities		Approver: Executive Committee		Target Audience: All Rio Tinto staff and each Rio Tinto Group business and function
Direct Linkages to other relevant Policies, Standards, Procedures or Guidance notes: Rio Tinto management system standard, C5 – Confined spaces guidance note				
Document purpose: To support implementation of the Group Safety policy by providing the minimum requirements for preventing injuries and fatalities in spaces that are enclosed, partially enclosed, not intended as workspaces or where a risk of entrapment has been identified.				

C5 – Confined spaces

Intent and scope

This standard applies to employees and contractors working at all Rio Tinto business units and managed operations, through all stages of their lifecycle from exploration through to closure.

This standard applies to spaces that are enclosed or partially enclosed, are not intended for continuous occupancy and have the potential during entry, occupancy or exit for one or more of the following:

- a hazardous atmosphere as a result of:
 - deficiency or excess of oxygen,
 - flammable or explosive material, or
 - dust, fume, mist, vapour, gas or other contaminants that exceed an occupational exposure limit.
- engulfment from free flowing solids or liquids, and
- entrapment due to restricted entry or exit.

Entry occurs when a person's whole body, upper body or head is within the confined space.

Control requirements

Requirements in this standard apply in addition to any defined in the Rio Tinto Management System. At all times, the elimination of risk is the priority.

Planning

- 1.1. There must be a process to:
 - a) identify confined spaces, and
 - b) minimise confined spaces.
- 1.2. There must be a register of confined spaces.
- 1.3. A confined space must have a permanent sign at each entry point stating a confined space permit is required prior to entry.

Implementation and operation

- 1.4. Before a confined space is entered a confined space permit must be issued.
- 1.5. All persons who are required to issue a confined space permit, enter a confined space, or act as a standby person must be deemed competent and authorised.
- 1.6. A standby person is mandatory for all confined space entries. A standby person must:
 - a) not enter the confined space, even in an emergency situation,
 - b) maintain communication with personnel in the confined space,
 - c) have no other duties,
 - d) remain outside the confined space entry point while the space is occupied, and
 - e) initiate emergency response plans.

1.7. There must be a risk based permitting process that includes:

- a) initial and continuous monitoring where a hazardous atmosphere is identified,
- b) a method of purging, inerting, flushing, or ventilating, where ventilation is required,
- c) prompts for other permits and procedures that relate to activities which may change the atmosphere or introduce other hazards,
- d) personal protective equipment requirements,
- e) method of controlling access to the space,
- f) nomination of a standby person and method of communication,
- g) plan for rescue, including that the required equipment is available and the process to initiate the response is agreed with the rescuers,
- h) displaying the confined space permit at the entry point,
- i) log in, log out and shift handover,
- j) confirmation everyone is out of the confined space before closure of the confined space permit, and
- k) cancellation of the confined space permit.