

# Entry into Enclosed Spaces Series

## Part 7: Working in Enclosed Spaces



Unless the proper procedures are followed, working in enclosed spaces remains one of the deadliest activities on board ship. Working in Enclosed Spaces clearly explains the correct procedures, including the need for risk assessments and permits to work. The programme identifies seven key rules to follow before working in an enclosed space. Reference is made to correct procedures when working with contractors. Other programmes in the series also highlight the need for the correct equipment, along with clear emergency and rescue procedures and the correct use of breathing apparatus.



But once in the space, there are still many things to consider if accidents, injury and even death are to be avoided. Working in Enclosed Spaces examines some of the everyday hazards that can be found when working in enclosed spaces through the use of fictional, dramatized case studies.

A couple of seafarers have been tasked with painting in a cargo tank. All entry procedures have been followed. As they begin the task, they are seen to be vigilant, keeping their eyes open for potential hazards and a sudden change of circumstances. But after a while they relax as nothing seems to be going wrong and complacency takes over – ultimately with tragic consequences!



Two fitters begin work in another tank. They have a maintenance schedule and an agreed plan of work. Before they start, however, a problem is spotted: a leaking flange on another line. It's not part of the plan, so they should first report it and leave it alone. But they don't - No deaths this time, but an injury that will last a lifetime!

In our final scenario, some temporary repairs are being carried out in an enclosed space. The job takes longer than anticipated and eventually carries on long after the permit to work has expired. It is a total breach of procedures which, combined with the stress of a seafarer clearly not fit to work in an enclosed space, results in yet another fatality.

The closing summary reminds the audience of the seven basics rules that must be followed before entering. But once in the space, seafarers need to carry out their own personal or dynamic risk assessment which means being vigilant at all times and, should there be problems, thinking before taking action rather than acting first and doing the thinking afterwards!

The accompanying workbook provides more detail and background information, including guidance for trainers showing how to use the programme in a training session, as well as questions for group discussion.

**Format**

- VOD
- VOD Online
- DVD
- CBT
- Workbook

**Regulations / Guidelines**

- Merchant Shipping (Entry into Dangerous Spaces) Regulations 1988 (SI 1988 No. 1638)
- IMO Resolution A.864 (20) Recommendations for entering into enclosed spaces aboard ships (adopted on 27 November 1997)
- UK MCA Code of Safe Working Practices for Merchant Seamen (COSWP)

**Target Audience**

Masters, officers and crew on board ship for individual study or use in a training session

**Main Topics**

- The seven rules for enclosed space entry
- Painting
- Maintenance and inspection
- Hot work
- Working from height

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