



Transport Canada Transports Canada



Marine Safety and Security Sécurité et sûreté maritimes

800 Burrard Street, Suite 600  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2J8

Phone : (604)-666-5300  
Fax: (604) 666-5444

Our file / Notre référence  
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**RE: Confined Space Entry and Inspections conducted by Marine Safety Inspectors in Transport Canada's Pacific Region.**

As originally discussed at Regional 2011 CMAC, Transport Canada Marine Safety, Pacific Region, has recently updated its Confined Space Management Program in an effort to better protect the personal safety of Marine Safety Inspectors who are invited to perform inspections within confined spaces.

Marine Safety Inspectors' working conditions are governed by the Canada Labour Code, in general, and more specifically by the Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, Part XI (or equivalent standards, where other legislation prevails) when it comes to carrying out inspections in confined spaces.

Marine Safety Inspectors will attend and carry out inspections in confined spaces only in circumstances where the vessel owner (or delegate) has complied with the Canada Labour Code and the Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, Part XI (or equivalent standards) as they apply to working in confined spaces.

Without limiting the generality of the requirements of the Canada Labour Code and the Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, Part XI (or equivalent standards), a vessel owner (or delegate) inviting Marine Safety Inspectors to carry out inspections in confined spaces shall ensure that:

- All persons associated with the confined space work are suitably trained and qualified, complete with supporting documentation
  - A confined space hazard assessment has been carried out by a qualified person, and documented
  - Confined space entry procedures have been developed by a qualified person, and documented
  - Confined space rescue procedures have been developed by a qualified person, and documented
  - A confined space entry permit has been issued by a qualified person, and posted
- Marine Safety Inspectors will not enter a confined space until satisfied that:
- The above confined space documentation is in order

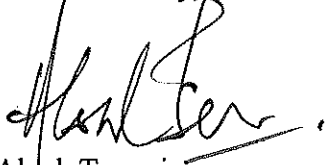
- The work scheduled for the confined space is coordinated and controlled by a qualified supervisor at all times
- The assessed hazards have been suitably addressed
- The confined space is suitably isolated from potential hazards
- Suitable rescue procedures and/or equipment are in place
- A breathable atmosphere has been verified in the confined space and that the breathable atmosphere can and will be maintained and verified.
- There is a qualified person assigned to standby the main entrance to the confined space for the entire time that the confined will be occupied
- There is a qualified person assigned to accompany the Marine Safety Inspector, at all times, while in the confined space (Spaces not large enough for two persons are relieved of meeting this requirement to have a qualified person accompany the Marine Safety Inspector.)

Your compliance with these work place safety requirements will help to ensure that we continue to serve you efficiently and effectively, as you endeavor to meet your statutory and Regulatory obligations.

Should you have any questions or require additional information regarding the above please contact Aloak Tewari at (604) 666-0445.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours sincerely,



Aloak Tewari  
A/Regional Director  
Marine Safety and Security  
Transport Canada - Pacific Region