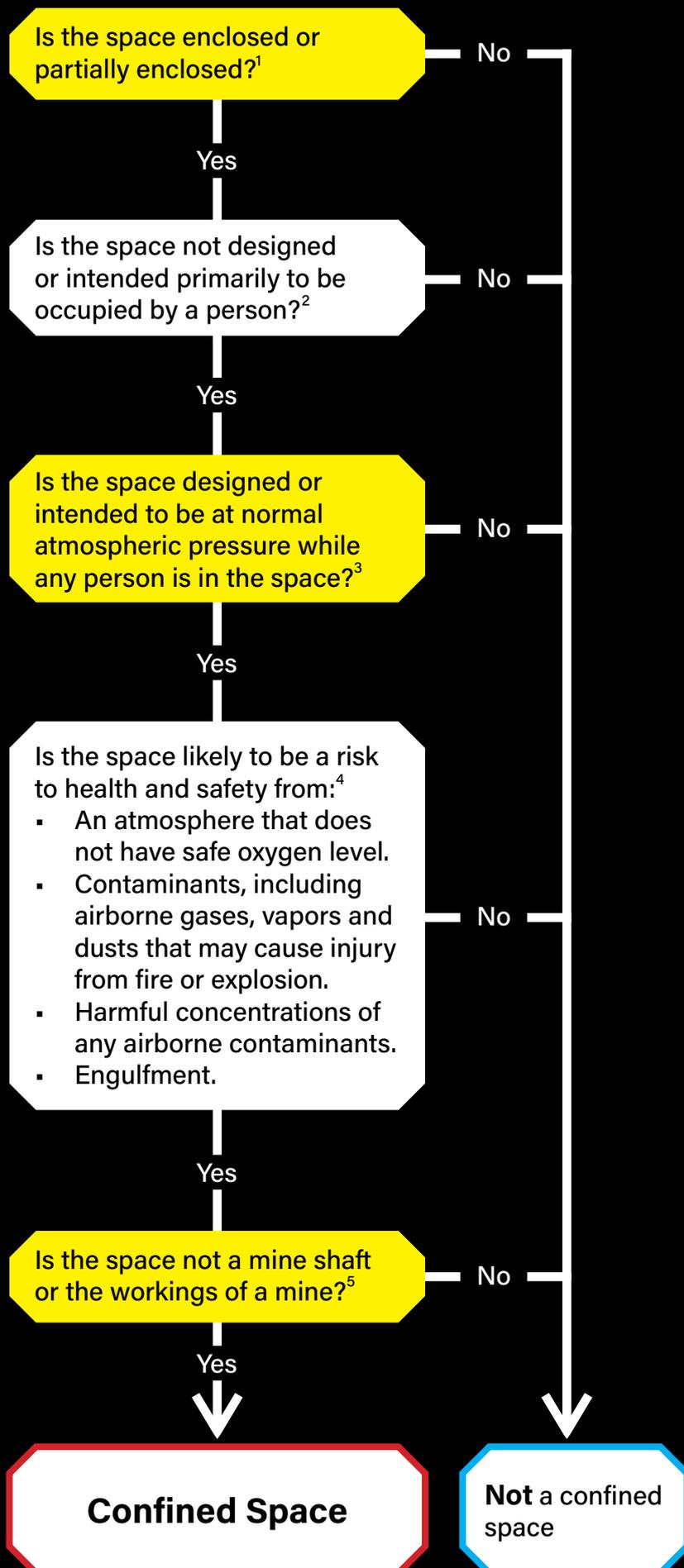


HOW TO DETERMINE WHETHER A SPACE IS A CONFINED SPACE

The following flowchart will help to determine whether a space is a 'confined space' according to WHS Regulations.



1. The risks of confined spaces are associated with how much of the space is enclosed, rather than the size of the space.

2. The entry or exit to the space could be restricted if the size of the opening and/or its location makes it physically difficult to get in and out of and difficult to remove an injured or unconscious person from the space. Spaces with poor ventilation, lighting and restricted means of entry or exit are generally not designed for human occupancy.

3. Where a space is not normally at atmospheric pressure (such as boiler) it must be brought to atmospheric pressure before a person enters the space, as part of the risk control process.

4.

- A safe oxygen level means an oxygen content in air of between 19.5-23.5 per cent.
- If contaminants are present at a concentration exceeding the relevant exposure standard or if they are likely to cause impairment, loss of consciousness or asphyxiation.
- Engulfment can involve any liquid including oil or water in which a person can drown or any solid including grain, fly ash, sawdust and sand that can flow and form a temporary cavity or bridge which may collapse and surround a person, cutting off their air supply.

5. For the purpose of the model WHS Regulations a confined space does not include a mine shaft or the workings of a mine. Information regarding these work areas should be sought from State/Territory legislation and Regulatory Bodies.