10.1 HOW TO DETERMINE WHETHER A SPACE IS A CONFINED SPACE

Is the space **enclosed or partially enclosed?** The risks of confined spaces are associated with how much of the space is enclosed, rather than the size of the space.

NO →

↓ **YES**

Is the space **not designed or intended to be occupied by a person?** Spaces with poor ventilation, inadequate lighting and restricted means of entry or exit are generally not designed for human occupancy. 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.

NO →

↓ **YES**

Is the space **designed or intended to be at normal atmospheric pressure while a person is in the space?** Where a space is not normally at atmospheric pressure (for example, a boiler) it must be brought to atmospheric pressure before a person enters the space, as part of the risk control process.

NO →

NOT A CONFINED SPACE

↓ **YES**

Is the space likely to pose a risk to health and safety from one or more of the following:

- an atmosphere that does not have a safe oxygen level (a safe oxygen level means an oxygen content in air between 19.5 per cent to 23.5 per cent)
- contaminants, for example, airborne gases, vapours and dusts, that may cause injury from fire or explosion
- harmful concentrations of any airborne contaminants (if the contaminants are present at a concentration above the relevant exposure standard or if they are likely to cause impairment, loss of consciousness or asphyxiation)
- engulfment, for example:
  - any liquid including oil or water in which a person can drown, or
  - any solid including fly ash, grain sawdust and sand that can flow and form a temporary cavity or bridge, which may cause collapse and surround a person, cutting off their air supply.

NO →

↓ **YES**

CONFINED SPACE