ANSI/ASSE A10.43 - 2016
Confined Spaces in Construction and Demolition Operations

American National Standard
for Construction and Demolition Operations
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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard A10.43-2016).

This standard is one of a series of safety standards that have been formulated by the Accredited Standards Committee on Safety in Construction and Demolition Operations, A10. It is expected that the standards in the A10 series will find a major application in industry, serving as a guide to contractors, labor, and equipment manufacturers. For the convenience of users, a list of existing and proposed standards in the A10 series for Safety Requirements in Construction and Demolition Operations follows.

A10.1 Pre-Project & Pre-Task Safety & Health Planning
A10.2 Safety, Health and Environmental Training (under development)
A10.3 Powder-Actuated Fastening Systems
A10.4 Personnel Hoists and Employee Elevators
A10.5 Material Hoists
A10.6 Demolition Operations
A10.7 Transportation, Storage, Handling and Use of Commercial Explosives and Blasting Agents
A10.8 Scaffolding
A10.9 Concrete and Masonry Construction
A10.10 Temporary and Portable Space Heating Devices
A10.11 Personnel Nets
A10.12 Excavation
A10.13 Steel Erection
A10.15 Dredging
A10.16 Tunnels, Shafts and Caissons
A10.17 Safe Operating Practices for Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Construction
A10.18 Temporary Roof and Floor Holes, Wall Openings, Stairways and Other Unprotected Edges
A10.19 Pile Installation and Extraction Operations
A10.20 Ceramic Tile, Terrazzo, and Marble Work
A10.21 Safe Construction and Demolition of Wind Generation/Turbine Facilities (under development)
A10.22 Rope-Guided and Non-Guided Workers’ Hoists
A10.23 Safety Requirements for the Installation of Drilled Shafts
A10.24 Roofing – Safety Requirements for Low-Sloped Roofs
A10.25 Sanitation in Construction
A10.26 Emergency Procedures for Construction Sites
A10.27 Hot Mix Asphalt Facilities
A10.28 Work Platforms Suspended from Cranes or Derricks
A10.29 Aerial Platforms in Construction (under development)
A10.31 Digger-Derricks
A10.32 Personal Fall Protection Used in Construction and Demolition Operations
A10.33 Safety and Health Program Requirements for Multi-Employer Projects
A10.34 Public Protection
A10.37 Debris Nets
A10.38 Basic Elements of a Program to Provide a Safe and Healthful Work Environment
A10.39 Construction Safety and Health Audit Program
A10.40 Reduction of Musculoskeletal Problems in Construction
A10.42 Rigging Qualifications and Responsibilities in the Construction Industry
A10.43 Confined Spaces in Construction and Demolition Operations
A10.44 Lockout/Tagout in Construction
A10.46 Hearing Loss Prevention
A10.47 Highway Construction Safety
A10.48 Communication Structures
A10.49 Control of Health Hazards
One purpose of these standards is to serve as guides to governmental authorities having jurisdiction over subjects within the scope of the A10 Committee standards. If these standards are adopted for governmental use, the reference of other national codes or standards in individual volumes may be changed to refer to the corresponding regulations.

Revisions: The A10 Committee welcomes proposals for revisions to this standard. Revisions are made to the standard periodically (usually five years from the date of the standard) to incorporate changes that appear necessary or desirable, as demonstrated by experience gained from the application of the standard. Proposals should be as specific as possible, citing the relevant section number(s), the proposed wording and the reason for the proposal. Pertinent documentation would enable the A10 Committee to process the changes in a more-timely manner.

Interpretations: Upon a request in writing to the Secretariat, the A10 Committee will render an interpretation of any requirement of the standard. The request for interpretation should be clear, citing the relevant section number(s) and phrased as a request for a clarification of a specific requirement. Oral interpretations are not provided.

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1. SCOPE, PURPOSE AND EXCEPTIONS

1.1 Scope. This standard sets forth the minimum elements and activities of a program that defines the duties and responsibilities of construction and demolition employers to be followed while entering, exiting and working in confined spaces at normal atmospheric pressure.

Exception: This standard does not pertain to underground mining, tunneling, caisson work or other similar tasks that have established national consensus standards.

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to establish minimum requirements and procedures for the safety and health of employees who work in, in connection with, and around (in such proximity that would affect employees) confined spaces on construction and demolition projects.

1.3 Exceptions. In cases of practical difficulties, unnecessary hardships or new developments, exceptions to the literal requirements may permit the use of other means and methods, but only when it is clearly indicated by a qualified person that the equivalent protection is thereby secured.

2. REFERENCES

ACGIH TLVs® and BEIs®

ANSI/ASSE A10.1, Pre-Project & Pre-Task Safety and Health Planning

ANSI/NEMA, Z535 Series

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 Acceptable Entry Conditions. A condition that shall exist in a permit confined space to allow entry and to ensure that the confined space entry team involved with a confined space entry can safely enter into, work or perform operations within the space and self-rescue from the confined space without any aided assistance.

3.2 Air Tester. A person qualified by training to test atmospheric conditions of a confined space for the purpose of determining acceptable entry conditions.

3.3 Attendant. A trained person who is assigned to perform all of the attendant's duties assigned in the employer's confined space entry program and to effectively monitor a confined space entry operation and provide support or react as required to provide for the safety of the entrants.

3.4 Authorized Rescuer. A person assigned by the employer qualified to perform rescue services in a confined space; to comply with this standard an authorized rescuer is required to receive annual training and to demonstrate competence to perform confined space rescue.

3.5 Barrier. A physical obstruction that blocks or limits access.

3.6 Biohazards. Microbiological agents presenting a risk or potential risk to the well-being of humans through inhalation, ingestion, dermal exposure or injection.

3.7 Biological Hazards. Hazards from vermin, wildlife, mold, biohazards and poisonous fauna or flora.

3.8 Blanking or Blinding. The absolute closure of a pipe, line or duct by the