



Confined Spaces Policy

Policy Statement

Johnston Vulcanising and Services Ltd. is committed to ensuring the safety of all employees and contractors when working in confined spaces. This policy outlines the safety measures, entry procedures, and rescue protocols to prevent accidents and injuries. This policy complies with the UK Confined Spaces Regulations 1997.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees and contractors of Johnston Vulcanising and Services Ltd., including those involved in quarrying, vulcanising activities, construction projects, sites, and offices in the UK.

Responsibilities

- **Senior Management:** Ensure overall compliance with confined spaces regulations, provide necessary resources for safety equipment and training, and promote a culture of safety.
- **Health and Safety Officer:** Oversee the implementation and monitoring of confined spaces procedures, conduct risk assessments, and provide training and guidance.
- **Managers and Supervisors:** Ensure staff follow confined spaces procedures, conduct regular inspections, and report any concerns or incidents.
- **All Employees and Contractors:** Comply with confined spaces procedures, use equipment correctly, report any issues, and participate in relevant training and awareness programs.

Procedures

1. **Risk Assessment**
 - Conduct thorough risk assessments for all tasks involving confined spaces to identify potential hazards.
 - Evaluate the risks associated with each confined space and implement control measures to mitigate identified risks.
 - Ensure that risk assessments are documented and reviewed regularly.
2. **Permit-to-Work System**
 - Implement a permit-to-work system for all confined space entries.
 - Ensure that a permit is issued by an authorized person before any work begins.
 - The permit must include details of the work to be done, identified hazards, control measures, and emergency procedures.
3. **Entry Procedures**
 - Ensure all employees and contractors are trained and competent before entering confined spaces.
 - Verify that all necessary equipment, such as gas detectors, ventilation devices, and PPE, is available and in good working condition.



- Test the atmosphere within the confined space for hazardous gases, oxygen levels, and flammable substances before entry.
 - Continuously monitor the atmosphere during the work to ensure it remains safe.
- 4. Isolation and Lockout/Tagout**
- Isolate and lock out any mechanical, electrical, or hydraulic equipment that could pose a hazard within the confined space.
 - Verify that all energy sources have been effectively isolated and locked out/tagged out before entry.
- 5. Ventilation**
- Ensure adequate ventilation within the confined space to maintain a safe atmosphere.
 - Use mechanical ventilation if natural ventilation is insufficient.
- 6. Communication**
- Establish and maintain effective communication between the personnel inside the confined space and the standby person outside.
 - Use reliable communication equipment, such as radios or hand signals, as appropriate.
- 7. Standby Person**
- Assign a trained and competent standby person to monitor the work from outside the confined space.
 - The standby person must remain in constant communication with the workers inside and be prepared to initiate emergency procedures if necessary.
- 8. Emergency and Rescue Procedures**
- Develop and communicate emergency rescue procedures for incidents involving confined spaces.
 - Ensure that rescue equipment, such as harnesses, ropes, and breathing apparatus, is available and that personnel are trained in its use.
 - Conduct regular drills to ensure preparedness for emergency situations.
- 9. Training and Competency**
- Provide comprehensive training on confined spaces safety, including entry procedures, hazard identification, and emergency response.
 - Ensure all employees and contractors are competent and confident in performing tasks in confined spaces.
 - Conduct regular refresher training and update employees on any changes to procedures or regulations.
- 10. Monitoring and Review**
- Monitor compliance with confined spaces procedures through regular inspections and audits.
 - Review and update the confined spaces policy and procedures as necessary to reflect changes in legislation, industry standards, and company operations.
 - Incorporate feedback from employees, inspections, and incident reports into policy updates.
- 11. Incident Reporting and Investigation**
- Report all incidents and near misses related to confined spaces to supervisors immediately.
 - Investigate incidents to determine the cause and implement corrective actions.
 - Maintain records of all incidents and corrective actions taken.



Commitment

Johnston Vulcanising and Services Ltd. is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of our employees and contractors by promoting safe working practices in confined spaces. We expect all personnel to adhere to this policy and report any concerns promptly.

Contact

For any questions or concerns about this policy, please contact Aaron Johnston by email at Aaron@jvsuk.co.uk or call 07495 376466.

Signed: A Johnston
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