





**MINISTERIAL REGULATION ON THE  
PRESCRIBING OF STANDARD FOR ADMINISTRATION  
AND MANAGEMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY,  
HEALTH AND WORK ENVIRONMENT IN  
CONFINED SPACE B.E. 2547**





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By virtue of Section 6 and Section 103 of the Labour Protection Act B.E. 2541, which contains certain provisions in relation to the restriction of rights and liberties of the individual which are allowed under Section 29 together with Section 31, Section 35, Section 48 and Section 50 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Minister Labour hereby issues the Ministerial Regulation as follows:

**Clause 1** This Ministerial Regulation shall come into force after one hundred and eighty days from the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

**Clause 2** In this Ministerial Regulation :  
“Confined space” means a place which has limited area of entrance and exit with insufficient ventilation that could not produce hygienic and safe



condition, e. g., in a tunnel, cave, well, pit, underground room, safe room, fuel tank, fermenter tank, tank, silo, pipe, furnace, container or other objects of similar characteristics.

“Hazardous atmosphere” means an air condition in which an employee may be exposed to danger due to one or more of the following conditions.

(1) Existence of oxygen at a concentration in lower than 19.5 percent or in excess of 23.5 percent by volume;

(2) Existence of flammable or explosive gas, vapor, or mist at concentration in excess of 10 percent of its lower flammable limit or lower explosive limit in the air;

(3) Existence of flammable or explosive dust at a concentration equal to or in excess of its lower flammable limit or lower explosive limit in the air;

(4) Existence of any chemicals at a concentration in excess of the standard prescribed by the Ministerial Regulation on the Prescription of Standard for Administration and Management of Occupational Safety, Health and Environment in relation to Hazardous Chemicals



(5) Any other condition which may be harmful to physical or life as prescribed by the Minister.

## CHAPTER 1

### GENERAL

**Clause 3** The employer shall make a signboard with the text inscribing “Confined space, Danger, Do not Enter.” The signboard shall be in conspicuous size and installed openly at the entrance and exit of every confined space.

**Clause 4** The employer shall not permit employee or any person to enter the confined space unless the employer has provided the safety in according to this Ministerial Regulation; and such employee or such person has been permitted by the person who is responsible for granting permission pursuant to Clause 18; and who is trained pursuant to Clause 21.

**Clause 5** The Employer shall not permit the employee or any other person to enter the confined space when the employer has been aware or should be aware that such employee or such person has been affected with respiratory disease, heart disease or other



diseases considered by a physician that may be harmful to the said person to enter the confined space.

## CHAPTER 2

### SAFETY MEASURES

**Clause 6** The employer shall provide a measurement, a record of the measurement and the assessment of the air condition in the confined space to determine whether the atmosphere is hazardous or not that must be conducted before allowing an employee to enter and during working in the confined space.

Where the hazardous atmosphere is detected by the employer, the employer shall take the following actions:

- (1) Remove the employees and other persons in the confined space from such area immediately;
- (2) Assess and find out the causes of the hazardous atmosphere;
- (3) Manage to make the air condition in that confined space free from a hazardous atmosphere such as ventilation or application of other measures.





Where the employer has taken actions pursuant to Paragraph Two and the hazardous atmosphere still remains in such confined space but the employer is required to allow an employee or any other person to enter the confined space having such hazardous atmosphere, the employer shall arrange for the employees or such other person to wear or use personal protective equipment to enable the said persons to work in that confined space with safety.

The employer shall keep a record of the result of measurement, assessment of the air condition and actions taken to make the air condition in confined space free from hazardous atmosphere available for inspection by the labour inspector.

**Clause 7** In case that the employer requires the employee to work in confined space, the employer shall appoint an employee or employees who are knowledgeable, capable and trained on occupational safety in confined space pursuant to Clause 21 to be a supervisor or supervisors as necessary to take the duties as follows:

(1) To formulate an action and prevention plan against a danger which may arise from work and



to post it for notice or to notify the employee in writing;

(2) To explain and drill the duties, responsibilities, method of work and method of safety protection to be in accordance with the formulated plan;

(3) To supervise the employee in using safeguard equipment and personal protective equipment and in inspecting the said equipment to be in good condition for using;

(4) To order temporary stoppage of work in case of there is cause which may be harmful to employees until such cause is disappeared and, if necessary, the persons responsible for granting permission pursuant to Clause 18, may be required to cancel such permission.

**Clause 8** The employer shall manage for an employee or employees, as necessary, who completed the training on occupational safety in confined space pursuant to Clause 21, to be the assistant(s) with assisting equipment and rescue equipment for looking after the entrance and exit of a confined space and keeping contact with the employee who performs work in a confined space in order to help remove the employees from confined space.



**Clause 9** The employer shall provide a personal protective equipment, assisting equipment and rescue equipment appropriate for the characteristics of the work in accordance with the standard prescribed by the Director-General; and the employer shall supervise the employees who perform work in confined space and the assistants in wearing or using such personal protective equipment, assisting equipment and rescue equipment.

**Clause 10** The employer shall provide a barrier to prevent any persons from entering or falling into the confined space which is characterized by a hole, a hollow, a pit, an open tank or a place of similar nature.

**Clause 11** The employer shall close, obstruct or take actions by any other means which effect in preventing the energy, substances or dangerous objects from entering the confined space area in the course of work performing by the employee.

**Clause 12** The employer shall arrange an alleyway or an entrance and exit of the confined space for the sake of convenience and safety.

**Clause 13** The employer shall notify to prohibit the employees from smoking or carrying any ignition



equipment or flammable equipment unrelated to work to the confined space by posting such notification at the entrance and exit of the confined space area.

**Clause 14** The employer shall provide suitable electrical equipment for use in the confined space and carry out an inspection of such electrical equipment to be in good and safe condition for using. If such confined space has a flammable or explosive atmosphere, the electrical equipment must be the type which can prevent its flammability and explosion.

**Clause 15** The employer shall provide an efficient fire extinguisher in a sufficient quantity that can be readily used in the course of working that may produce flame.

**Clause 16** The employer shall not permit the employees to perform work that produces heat or sparks in the confined space, i.e., welding, burning, riveting, drilling or polishing unless a suitable safety measure according to this Chapter has been provided.

**Clause 17** The employer shall not permit the employees to perform work which uses volatile, toxic, and flammable substances in the confined space unless



a suitable safety measure according this Chapter has been provided.

### CHAPTER 3

#### PERMIT TO WORK

**Clause 18** The employer shall be the person who is responsible for granting permission to employees to work in the confined space. In this regard, the employer may authorize in writing employee or employees who have trained on occupational safety in the confined space pursuant to Clause 21 as necessary to be the person responsible for granting permission on his/her behalf.

The employer shall keep the letter of authorization at the workplace available for inspection by a labour inspector.

**Clause 19** The employer shall provide a working Permit to employee in every time of working in the confined space. The working permit shall at least contain the particulars as follows:

(1) The confined space in which the employee is permitted to enter to work;



- (2) Date and time of work;
- (3) Work to be performed by the employer;
- (4) Name of the employee who is permitted to enter to work;
- (5) Name of supervisor pursuant to Clause 7;
- (6) Name of an assistant pursuant to Clause 8;
- (7) Safety measure prepared before the employee is to enter to work;
- (8) Result of air condition inspection and the condition which hazard may happen;
- (9) Personal protective equipment, assisting equipment and rescue equipment;
- (10) Danger that may expose to the employee in case of emergency and means of escaping from danger;
- (11) Name and signature of an applicant for permission; and name and signature of person who has the duty of responsibility for granting permission pursuant to Clause 18.

**Clause 20** The employer shall keep the working permit for the employee to work in the confined space pursuant to Clause 19 at the establishment available for inspection by the labour inspector and



shall post a copy of the mentioned letter at the entrance and exit of the confined space that can be visible throughout the work performed by the employee.

## CHAPTER 4

### TRAINING

**Clause 21** The employer shall provide a training on occupational safety in confined space in according to the criteria, methods and course as prescribed by the Director-General for all employees who perform work in confined space including concerned persons for having knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for safe working as duty assigned as well as the method and procedure of work.

**Clause 22** The employer shall keep the evidence of training on occupational safety in the confined space pursuant to Clause 21 available for inspection by labour inspector.

Given on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 2004

-Signed-

(Mrs. Uraiwan Thienthong)

Minister of Labour



**REGULATIONS**

*Occupational Safety, Health and Environment*