



IN THE ELEVATOR PIT WORKING SPACE CHANGES.
THAT IS WHAT IT IS DESIGNED TO DO.
YOU ARE NOT.
IF THE MASS OF THE ELEVATOR
MEETS THE MASS OF THE CONSTRUCTOR,
THE CONSTRUCTOR WILL LOSE EVERY TIME.



CONFINED SPACES KILL

OSHA 3031 - Confined spaces in elevators, whether elevator pits or the shafts of shaftless elevators.

Relevant regulations: 29 CFR 1910.146

Relevant standards: 29 CFR 1910.146

October 27, 1989

Dr. Richard L. Stroup, Director
COSH and Safety Coordinator
1000 North 17th Street, Suite 100
Bloomington, MN 55403-1001

Dear Mr. Stroup:

This is further reference to your letter of January 27, 1989 and the joint meeting of June 20, 1989, between the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Inc. and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. I am writing to you regarding the proposed rule for the design and construction of elevators. It would be a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet with you for the purpose of discussing the difficulties you face in your industry.

After talking to the manufacturer, installing firms and other organizations of the elevator industry, the following is the proposed rule for the design and construction of elevators:

1) The need for a permit to enter into an elevator pit or shaft is a necessary means of protecting workers who enter into an elevator pit or shaft. The permit system will be based on the pit or shaft and its contents to be entered into or not.

2) The permit system will be based on the pit or shaft and its contents to be entered into or not.

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**CONFINED SPACES:
CAN CRUSH YOU
CAN TAKE AWAY YOUR BREATH
IF GIVEN A CHANCE WILL TAKE AWAY YOUR LIFE!**

During the meeting the members learned that it is the most important rule to be followed in the design of confined spaces.

1) They are in a confined and uncontrolled space. The restriction is to be followed in the design of confined spaces.

2) The permit system will be based on the pit or shaft and its contents to be entered into or not.

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As noted in the meeting, any contractor who provides the permit to enter a confined space is responsible for the safety of the worker in the confined space.

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In summary:

- 1) OSHA continues to view elevator pits generally as confined spaces.
- 2) There has to be a potential or actual hazard present in the elevator pit in order for it to be classified as a permit-required confined space. Most elevator pits contain at least mechanical and electrical hazards.
- 3) If all the hazards in the elevator pit can be eliminated, the pit can be reclassified as a non-permit space.
- 4) Host employers must provide contractors with the specific hazard information on which the permit space-determination is based.

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NOTE:
When safety hazards are encountered that can not be easily avoided they must be **IMMEDIATELY** reported to your Supervisor, and to your Business Representative if necessary.



"We came to this trade to have a better life not a shorter one."