



Oregon
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)
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Revised: July 24, 2013 (based on changes to confined space standards)

Robert Lishey
Risk Specialist
City of Portland Environmental Services
5001 N. Columbia Blvd
Portland, OR 97203-2409

Dear Mr. Lishey,

This is in response to your letter requesting clarifications on OAR 437-002-0146 Confined Spaces standard.

437-002-0146(9)(b) requires that retrieval systems be used except when the retrieval equipment would increase the risk to an entrant or would not contribute to the rescue of an entrant. When a retrieval system is not used, alternate methods of retrieval must be developed, and rescue personnel must be trained in retrieving the entrant in the event of an emergency.

The code does not prohibit a confined space being reconfigured to facilitate non-entry removal of an entrant. We hope this answers your question regarding confined spaces.

For more information contact Oregon OSHA's technical section at 503- 378-3272 or visit at www.orosha.org.

Sincerely,

Peggy A Munsell, Manager
Standards & Appeals Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division