

PART 503 – SAFETY

SUBPART B – PUBLIC SAFETY AT STRUCTURE SITES

WA503.10(a)(5)

WA503.10 General

- (a) Confined Spaces. Certain structures that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance on are classified as a Confined Space by Washington State Department of Labor and Industry rules, *Chapter 296-62 WAC, part M*. These rules contain specific requirements that must be met before a person enters a confined space. Generally all catch basins, sumps, reception pits, covered tanks and any other structure that may trap dangerous gases that the NRCS designs are considered a confined space. It is generally known that manure in these structures can produce dangerous gases; however, even dry structures or those with only clean water can also develop dangerous air conditions. These conditions can develop quickly and may even occur during construction.
- (1) During the design of structures that may be considered confined spaces, fencing, suitable covers, or other means shall be specified in the plans to protect those areas from unauthorized entry. The planned safety measures shall be in place according to the construction drawings and specification prior to certification by the NRCS.
 - (2) Where a structure is included in a plan that meets the criteria for a confined space, an appropriate warning statement shall be included in the operation and maintenance plan.
 - (3) Where a sump is included in the design, flexible discharge hoses, guide rails with flange connections, or other mechanical methods shall be considered to eliminate the need for sump entry during pump maintenance.
 - (4) NRCS employees shall not enter a confined space for construction inspection or any other purpose without proper authorization. All requests for authorization to enter confined spaces shall be submitted to and approved by the Area Conservationist.
 - (5) NRCS employees entering a confined space shall comply with all applicable state and federal rules concerning a confined space, which may include but not be limited to: taking applicable training relating to confined spaces, completing atmospheric testing of facility prior to entry, using self-contained breathing apparatus, and having trained attendants at the site.