



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
Land Use & Environmental Services Agency
Code Enforcement

MECKLENBURG COUNTY CODE ENFORCEMENT
Guidelines for
Entry Into
ATTICS, UNDER-FLOOR SPACES, and CONFINED SPACES
8-16-06

PURPOSE

To ensure that all inspectors entering attics, under floor spaces, and confined spaces recognize potential hazards, adhere to established safety practices, and utilize the required Personal Protection Equipment.

PRE-ENTRY PROCEDURES

I. Ventilated Attics, Under-floor Spaces and other Confined Areas

Prior to entry, the inspector should perform the following procedures:

- 1) Carefully assess the situation you are about to enter, including self-locking doors, size of entrance and/or exit.
- 2) Wear the appropriate personal protection equipment.
- 3) Be alert for the presence of unusual odors or gases.
- 4) Visually evaluate the amount of ventilation in the area.
- 5) Determine if the space is physically large enough for the entrant to perform assigned duties.
- 6) Be alert for other physical hazards in the space about to be entered.
- 7) Ensure attic temperatures are within tolerable limits.
- 8) It is the responsibility of the Contractor/Owner to provide a safe environment.



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II. Non-Ventilated or Sealed Confined Areas

Do not enter non-ventilated or sealed areas where under normal conditions may contain hazardous or classified conditions that may be considered unsafe for human occupancy. Do not enter non-ventilated or sealed areas where under normal conditions may contain dangerous levels of gases or vapors, eye and/or skin irritants, chemicals or flammable/combustible products. These areas shall not be entered without requiring the contractor or owner to ensure the area is safe for entry.

RESPONSIBILITIES

ENTRANT

- 1) Wear the appropriate personal protection equipment.
- 2) Upon the discovery of toxic fumes and/or gases, alert supervisor and require the contractor or owner to make the area safe to enter per the Department of Labor regulations (CFR 29 Part 1910.146).
- 3) Remain on site while testing is performed by authorized individual. Proper ventilation of the space must be maintained during entry of the area.
- 4) When areas to be entered are unusually tight, entrant is responsible for securing an attendant (a representative of the contractor that is able to communicate in the same language as the inspector) to monitor the status of the entrant before, during, and after entrance into such space.
- 5) Alert the attendant (contractor) whenever the entrant recognizes any dangerous situations.



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CONTRACTOR (attendant)

- 1) It is the responsibility of the Contractor/Owner to provide a safe environment.
- 2) Know the hazards that may be faced during entry, including information on the mode, signs or symptoms, and consequences of the exposure.
- 3) Remain outside the immediate area during entry operations unless relieved by another attendant. Notify inspector if attendants are relieved.
- 4) Communicate with the entrant as necessary to monitor the status of the entrant, to alert the entrant of the need to evacuate the space, and to detect behavioral changes in the entrant which would be signs of hazardous conditions within the space.
- 5) Initiate rescue procedures if necessary and call 911 to request additional assistance by other individuals, co-workers, or emergency personnel.
- 6) Remain alert and refrain from any other activities that would distract from the monitoring of, or the communicating with the inspector.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

- Eye Protection
- Gloves
- Tyvek coveralls or similar protective clothing
- Disposable Dust Mask
- Hardhat
- Communication device
- Hearing protection
- Knee pads
- Safety shoes