



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
Land Use & Environmental Services Agency
Code Enforcement

Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement
Confined Space Policy

8-16-06

If you are building, or requesting an inspection in a sealed attic or sealed under floor space you need to read this information! If you are building, or requesting an inspection in a confined space under OSHA guidelines you need to read this information!

Due to the introduction of Sealed Attics and Under-floor Spaces and the increased potential hazards associated with performing inspections within these areas, Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement has adopted a policy for pre-entry procedures scheduled to be implemented on January 1, 2007. A detailed description of the policy can be found below.

DEFINITIONS (as defined by the NC Department of Labor)

CONFINED SPACE

An area which has limited or restricted means of entry or exit, unfavorable natural ventilation that could contain or produce dangerous air contaminants, is large enough for an employee to enter and perform assigned work, and is not designed for continuous occupancy. These spaces may include, but are not limited to, underground vaults, tanks storage bins, pits and diked areas, vessels, and silos.

**PERMIT-REQUIRED
CONFINED SPACE**

Areas meeting the conditions of a confined space and has one or more of these characteristics: 1. contains or has the potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere; 2. contains a material that has the potential for engulfing an entrant; 3. has an internal configuration that might cause an entrant to be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or by a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section; 4. contains any



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other recognized serious safety or health hazards.

Code Enforcement's Interpretation

Typical naturally ventilated crawlspaces, attics and other non-habitable areas which have potential physical hazards should be entered with the precautions set forth in Part I of the Guidelines for Entry into Attics, Under-floor Spaces, and Confined Spaces. (see attached)

Non-ventilated or sealed crawl spaces, attics or other spaces where under normal conditions contain hazardous or classified conditions that may be considered unsafe for human occupancy because of dangerous levels of gases or vapors, eye and/or skin irritants, chemicals or flammable/combustible products shall not be entered without requiring the contractor or owner to ensure the area is safe for entry. Follow the entry procedures set forth in Part II of the Guidelines for Entry into Attics, Under-floor Spaces, and Confined Spaces.