



# Toolbox

## Confined space

Schiphol wants to be a safe place for everyone. It makes no difference if you are here as a passenger, a visitor or to do your work. However, safety cannot be taken for granted. That is why we have prepared the Golden Rules of Safety. The rule below relates to working in confined spaces.

No room, very little light and sometimes hardly any air. Working in a confined space is not for everyone, and not only of the discomfort. The risk potential is also significantly higher than in a 'normal' working area. For that reason, we have drafted this important Golden Rule of Safety:

### CONFINED SPACE

The contents of this Golden Rule should be read in combination with the contents of Working Conditions Catalogue sheet 023 (Arbocatalogus) 'Hazards in confined and narrow conductive areas'.

A confined space is an enclosed or partly open space, not designed to accommodate people. Sometimes, however, work does have to be carried out there. We speak of a narrow conductive space if you can come into contact with electrically conductive parts and your freedom of movement is limited. A narrow conductive space must be clearly recognisable. In addition to the dimensions, the definition 'confined' or 'narrow conductive' is also determined by the presence of harmful gases or vapours, electricity, pipelines under (high) pressure, kerosene pipes or soil contamination. Health & Safety (H&S) and/or work plans must contain this information, and it must be communicated to everyone involved.

### Definition of a confined space

A confined space is a space (for example trench, crawl space, sewer, tank) with at least one of the following properties (for more information on our policy on entering confined space and narrow conductive spaces see [www.schiphol.nl/safety](http://www.schiphol.nl/safety)):

- The space is sufficiently large that an employee can enter the space, and carry out the commissioned work, in that space;
- In the space there is a risk of asphyxiation, intoxication, poisoning, fire or explosion, or such circumstances can arise during the work;
- In the space there is a risk of electrocution;
- The possibilities for entering or leaving the space are restricted;
- The space is laid out in such a way that a person can become enclosed or trapped in the space;
- The space is not designed to permanently accommodate people.

### Where can you find confined and narrow conductive spaces at Schiphol?

- Crawl spaces under buildings, e.g. below Plaza
- Sewage systems
- Press Pump
- Pump pit
- Trenches with Pipelines
- Work pits

*see next page >*



Do you have any hints or remarks to make this a better toolbox? Or do you want to share your opinion with us? We like to hear from you via:  
[safe\\_office@schiphol.nl](mailto:safe_office@schiphol.nl).

## What can happen to you in a confined or narrow conductive space?

- You may develop serious breathing difficulties or even suffocate due to the possible presence of toxic, flammable, or explosive liquids, gases, and vapours;
- You may suffocate due to a lack of oxygen, for example due to poor ventilation;
- If something happens to you, it is difficult to help or save you because access is limited;
- You can bump into (poorly visible) obstacles, such as pipes and/or support beams;
- You can trip or fall because of (poorly visible) obstacles on the floor;
- You can suffer a severe electric shock if you touch or damage any electric parts.

## Standard safety measures at Schiphol

Before you start working, Schiphol first secures the system or system component. A Task Risk Analysis (TRA) must also be performed by the contractor, in which each process step is described. The TRA also sets out the necessary risk management measures. Together with the work permit, you will be informed of the requirements imposed by Schiphol on the TRA. Take particular note of the following control measures:

- Whether something must be done to seek protection from the atmosphere in the space (hazardous gases, lack of oxygen, etc.);
- Whether there is any risk of explosion;
- Any risks relating to electricity and how these can be managed;
- Where a person can suffer a collision/blow or fall, or where objects can fall onto someone;
- The agreements on how to tackle the work. Who does what, who is the safety watch, what to do in the event of an emergency, etc.;

## What can you do to protect yourself?

- Never work alone in a confined or narrow conductive space. Always ensure that a certified safety watch is present. The safety watch will take air measurements and is in constant contact with you and any others in the space, during work.
- Even in the case of an emergency, the safety watch may never enter the space. He/she must notify rescue workers and wait until they arrive to do their work.
- Always carry out a Last-Minute Risk Analysis (LMRA) before taking any action
- If something is unclear or represents a high risk, do not start work. Go back to the commissioning authority and discuss what you must do to manage the risks, before taking the necessary measures.
- Always remain alert and if in doubt pause the work.

## Permit and approval required

If you are about to work in a confined space, you must first obtain a work permit with the requirements set by Schiphol for the TRA. Both documents will be discussed with you.

## What you can expect from Schiphol

Schiphol will do everything it can to ensure that everyone can work safely in confined spaces. We keep our work instructions and procedures up to date and available. You can also call on us for questions or assistance: [safe\\_office@schiphol.nl](mailto:safe_office@schiphol.nl) or via your supervisor. If despite our effort there is still room for improvement, we are always open to suggestions. After all, we are partners in safety.

## What Schiphol expects from you

We want you to be responsible for safe working practice. Certainly in confined spaces. Avoid switching to automatic pilot, and always carry out an LMRA before you start work. Help others wherever necessary.

### TIPS:

- Always stay alert!
- Always ask when in doubt
- Interrupt work if necessary

[www.schiphol.nl/veiligheid](http://www.schiphol.nl/veiligheid)