



PLATFORM ZERO INCIDENTS

SAFETY ALERT (NO.2): ENTRY OF CONFINED SPACE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This week a serious accident occurred in the harbour of Rotterdam. Four crewmembers of a chemical tanker became unwell when cleaning a tank. Two members were inside the tank and two were on deck. Later that night three additional crewmembers were examined when they felt sick.

Without getting ahead of the official investigation and conclusions, we felt that we wanted to inform you about certain points concerning entry of confined spaces, in order to increase general safety.

A confined space is defined as:

- Having limited opening for entry and exit.
- Having unfavourable natural ventilation.
- Not designed for continuous worker occupancy.



POSSIBLE DANGERS

- Suffocation by oxygen deficiency.
- Health damage through inhalation of toxic gasses/vapours.
- Possible presence of Nitrogen.
- Possible presence of CO (Carbon monoxide).

These dangers can still exist after ventilation or cleaning of tanks.

Be aware of this!

MEASURES: ENTRY CONFINED SPACE

- Check beforehand the confined space on gasses and vapours.
- Use appropriate and calibrated measuring equipment.
- Measures at different heights, at different places inside the tank and at different openings on deck.
- Make sure that the gas concentration is <10% LEL and the Toxicity of the tank is measured and below the limit value.
- Make sure that there is enough Oxygen (20.7%).
- Register the results and sign off on it.
- Make sure there is enough ventilation and measurements are continuously executed.
- Be aware of possible presence of gasses in corners and the like.
- Wear appropriate PPE, including measuring equipment.
- Make sure a crewmember is present at the tank entry with appropriate PPE.
- Make sure lifesaving equipment is at hand to get people out of the confined space (like a safety harness and salvage equipment).
- Know what to do in case of emergency.
- Comply with the rules as described by AND 7.2.3.1.
- CAUTION: Confined spaces may not, under any circumstances, be entered with dependent breathing equipment.

References/sources

<http://www.euronorm.net>

<http://www.arbo-binnenvaart.nl>

<http://www.arbokennisnet.nl>

ADN 7.2.3.1

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