Atmospheric testing is required for two distinct purposes:

1. Evaluation of the hazards of the permit space.

2. Verification that acceptable conditions exist for entry into that space.

**(1) *Evaluation testing:***The atmosphere of a confined space should be analyzed using equipment of sufficient sensitivity and specificity to identify and evaluate any hazardous at­mospheres that may exist or arise, so that appropriate permit entry procedures can be developed and acceptable entry con­ditions stipulated for that space Evaluation and interpretation of these data and development of the entry procedure should be done by, or reviewed by, a technically qualified professional (e.g., OSHA consultation service, or certified industrial hygienist1 registered safety engineer, certified safety professional) based on evaluation of all serious hazards

***(2) Verification testing:***The atmosphere of a permit space which may contain a hazardous atmosphere should be tested for residues of all contaminants identified by evaluation using permit specified equipment to determine that residual concentrations at the time of testing and entry are within the range of acceptable entry conditions. Testing order should be oxygen, flammables, and then toxics.Results of testing (i.e. actual concentration) should be recorded on the permit in the space provided adjacent to the stipulated acceptable entry condition.

***(3) Duration Of testing:***Measurement of values for each at­mospheric parameter should be made for at least the minimum response time of the test instrument specified by the manufacturer.

***(4) Testing stratified atmospheres***When monitoring for en­tries involving a descent into atmospheres which may be stratified, the atmospheric envelope should be tested a distance of approximately four (4) feet (1.22 meters) in the direc­tion of travel and to each side. If a sampling probe is used, the entrant's rate of progress should be slowed to accommodate the sampling speed and detector response.

***(5) Periodically retest:*** To verify that the atmosphere remains within acceptable entry conditions.

1Tltle 29 *Code of Federal Regulations* 1910.146, Appendix B.

229CFR 1910.146 (c)(5)(ii)(C) and (d)(5)(iii).

329 CFR 1910.146 (c)(5)(ii)(F) and (d)(5)(ii).

| **Revision / Review History** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Revision** | **Date** | **Authorized By** | **Changes** |
| 1 | 9/11/2000 | Safety Director | New Program |
| 2 | 1/15/2001 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 3 | 1/10/2002 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 4 | 1/11/2003 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 5 | 1/15/2004 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 6 | 1/10/2005 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 7 | 6/27/2006 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 8 | 9/6/2007 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 9 | 8/23/2010 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 10 | 10/3/2012 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 11 | 11/10/2012 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 12 | 9/25/2013 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 13 | 6/13/2016 | Safety Director | Annual Review-Updated and new format |
| 13 | 6/30/2017 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 13 | 7/01/2018 | Safety Director | Annual Review |
| 13 | 6/7/2019 | Safety Director | Annual Review |