Appendix A to §1910.146 Permit-Required Confined Space Decision Flow Chart

Does the workplace contain Confined Spaces as defined by §1910.146 (b)?  
**YES**

Does the workplace contain Permit-Required Confined Spaces as defined by §1910.146 (b)?  
**NO** Consult other applicable OSHA Standards.  
**YES** Inform employees as required by §1910.146 (c)(2).

Will permit spaces be entered?  
**NO** Prevent employee entry as required by §1910.146 (c)(3). Do task from outside of space.  
**YES** Task will be done by contractors’ employees. Inform contractor as required by §1910.146 (c)(3)(i), (ii) and (iii). Contractor obtains information required by §1910.146 (c)(3)(i), (ii) and (iii) from host.

Will contractors enter?  
**NO** Both contractors and host employees will enter the space?  
**YES** Coordinate entry operations as required by §1910.146 (c)(8)(iv) and (d)(11). Prevent unauthorized entry.  
**NO** Prevent unauthorized entry. STOP

Will host employees enter to perform entry tasks?  
**NO** Does space have known or potential hazards?  
**YES** Can the hazards be eliminated?  
**NO** Can the space be maintained in a condition safe to enter by continuous forced air ventilation only?  
**NO** Prepare for entry via permit procedures.

Does space have known or potential hazards?  
**NO** Not a permit-required confined space. §1910.146 does not apply. Consult other OSHA standards.  
**YES** Can the hazards be eliminated?  
**NO** Can the space be maintained in a condition safe to enter by continuous forced air ventilation only?  
**NO** Prepare for entry via permit procedures.

Verify acceptable entry conditions (Test results recorded, space isolated if needed, rescuers/means to summon available, entrants properly equipped, etc.).  
**YES** Permit issued by authorizing signature. Acceptable entry conditions maintained throughout entry.  
**NO** Emergency exists (prohibited condition). Entrants evacuate—entry aborts. Call rescuers if needed. Permit is void. Reevaluate program to correct/prevent prohibited condition. Occurrence of emergency (usually) is proof of deficient program. No re-entry until program (and permit) is amended. May require new program.

Entry tasks completed. Permit returned, canceled and retained for 1 year.  
Audit permit program and entry permit using input from entrants, attendants and other involved personnel.