

*Please print and post at your vessel/ facility for all employees to view*

## Fleet Memo #60: Gas Testers and Confined Spaces

During a recent audit it was discovered that the gas tester on board the vessel had expired. The vessel crew completed the confined space permit to enter the space, but in the “Final Checks Before Starting” section where it said, “Has gas detector been lowered to the bottom of the space without alarm?” The crew indicated yes- even though they had not used the gas tester.

No additional risk assessment was made for entering without testing the oxygen levels. The JSA was copied and pasted from a previous JSA and did not include any mention of the expired gas tester or additional mitigations for entering without testing.

### Lessons learned:

Each vessel currently has only one unit. There is nothing in place currently to track the expiration dates of the gas testers and notify anyone in time to order replacements.

### Preventative Actions to be taken:

- 1. Resupply will send three units to each vessel** This will keep a rotating stock and back up unit on board so they will always have a current, working unit.
- 2. After new units are delivered, vessels are to activate only one -- keep 2 NON-activated testers on hand and order as needed.** The BW Clip 2-year O2 Single Gas detector BWC2-X is designed to run for two years non-stop **once activated**. The 2-year countdown is not based on manufacture date – it starts when the unit is turned on.
- 3. All permits are to be filled out by hand.** No typed forms or cutting and pasting to avoid copy/ paste mistakes and ensure the team completes the checklist actions each time.

### Your action items:

- 1. Review SMM SOP-GEN-004** and the **vessel specific SOP-004** at the next meeting. Focus on the steps that need to be taken to enter a Confined Space.
- 2. Reinforce with crew that NO ONE is to go into a confined space EVER unless**
  - a. The space has been gas tested and oxygen levels verified safe OR
  - b. The entrant is in full SCBA gear and uses SCBA air AND
  - c. All other requirements for entry have been met.
- 3. Email the office with the number of oxygen testers you have aboard and when they expire**

If you have any questions, please email [PortCaptain@tdi-bi.com](mailto:PortCaptain@tdi-bi.com) .



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