

Chapter Ind 12

WORK UNDER COMPRESSED AIR

	Application	Temperature, electricity and sanitation
Ind 12.01	Application of orders	
Ind 12.02	Inspections	Ind 12.30 Temperature, electricity and sanitation
	Definitions	Compressor plant, air supply and telephone communication
Ind 12.04	Definitions	Ind 12.40 Compressor plant, air supply and telephone communication
	General provisions	
Ind 12.05	General provisions	
	Compression	Bulkheads and screens
Ind 12.10	Compression rate	Ind 12.50 Bulkheads and screens
	Decompression	Fire prevention
Ind 12.15	Normal condition	Ind 12.70 Fire prevention
Ind 12.16	Repetitive exposures	Medical care of employees
Ind 12.17	Decanting	Ind 12.80 Medical attendance
Man locks and special decompression chamber		Ind 12.81 Medical facilities
Ind 12.20	Man locks	Ind 12.82 Physical examination
Ind 12.21	Man lock attendant	Ind 12.83 Reporting of illness of employees
Ind 12.22	Man lock attendant station	Ind 12.84 Treatment of decompression illness and air embolism
Ind 12.23	Lock register	Ind 12.85 Medical records
Ind 12.25	Special decompression chamber	Ind 12.86 Forms

Article 1.

APPLICATION

Ind 12.01 Application of orders. The following rules shall apply whenever men are employed in compressed air, exclusive of diving work. Machines, equipment, processes, and operations not specifically covered by these rules, shall be governed by other applicable administrative codes.

(1) EXCEPTIONS. (a) In cases of practical difficulty and unnecessary hardship, the department of industry, labor and human relations may grant a *variance* to literal requirements of this code and may permit the use of alternate devices or methods provided the variance proposed is clearly equal to code requirements in purpose and intent. A petition for modification must be filed with the department of industry, labor and human relations for any code variance sought.

(b) In cases of practical difficulty and unnecessary hardship, the department of industry, labor and human relations may grant a *waiver* of certain rules in this code when the rules apply to work in progress under contracts existing prior to the effective date of this code. Such waivers shall remain in effect for not more than 6 months.

History: Cr. Register, August, 1971, No. 183, eff. 9-1-71.

Register, April, 1973, No. 208
Work Under Compressed Air

Ind 12.02 Inspections. (1) The authorized inspectors of the department upon presenting appropriate credentials to the owner, operator, or agent in charge, are authorized—

(a) To enter without delay and at reasonable times any factory, plant, establishment, construction site, or other area, workplace or environment where work is performed by an employee of an employer; and

(b) To inspect and investigate during regular working hours and at other reasonable times, and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner, any such place of employment and all pertinent conditions, structures, machines, apparatus, devices, equipment, and materials therein, and to question privately any such employer, owner, operator, agent or employee.

(2) The inspector before making his inspection shall contact a representative of the employer and a representative authorized by his employees who shall be given an opportunity to accompany the inspector during the physical inspection of any workplace under subsection (1) for the purpose of aiding such inspection.

(a) Where there is no authorized employee representative, the inspector shall consult with a reasonable number of employees concerning matters of health and safety in the workplace.

Note: The department policy is not to give advance notice, but in the scheduling and in the act of inspecting it may not always be possible to avoid advance notice or to obtain accompaniment as, for example, inside boilers or in precarious locations of elevator installations, but otherwise these rules will be diligently observed.

History: Cr. Register, April, 1973, No. 208, eff. 5-1-73.

Article 2.

DEFINITIONS

Ind 12.04 Definitions. The following definitions shall apply in the application of these rules. The singular number includes the plural and the plural the singular.

(1) **AIR MASTER.** That competent individual designated by the employer and licensed by the department of industry, labor and human relations in immediate charge of the work.

(2) **BULKHEAD.** An airtight structure separating the working chamber from free air or from another chamber under a lesser pressure than the working pressure.

(3) **COMBINATION LOCK.** An air lock which serves both as materials and man lock.

(4) **COMPRESSED AIR CAISSON.** A vertical structure extended below the water or earth surface through which men may descend through a lock into an air pressure greater than atmospheric. The pressurized atmosphere opposes the water pressure and permits men to work at the bottom of the caisson.

(5) **DECANTING.** A method used for decompressing under certain circumstances. In this procedure the workers are brought to atmospheric pressure with a very high gas tension in the tissues and then immediately recompressed in a second and separate chamber or lock. The period of time that the workers spend at atmospheric pressure

between the decompression following the shift and recompression must not exceed 5 minutes.

(6) **EMPLOYER.** The contractor, firm, corporation or other organization carrying out the work.

(7) **FREE AIR.** Normal atmospheric pressure.

(8) **HIGH AIR.** Air pressure used to supply power to pneumatic tools and devices.

(9) **LOW AIR.** Air supplied to pressurize working chambers and locks.

(10) **MAN LOCK.** A chamber through which men pass from one air pressure environment into another.

(11) **MATERIALS LOCK.** A chamber through which materials and equipment pass from one air pressure environment into another.

(12) **MEDICAL LOCK.** A special chamber in which men are treated for decompression illness. It may also be used in preemployment physical examinations to determine the adaptability of the prospective employe to changes in pressure.

(13) **PRESSURE.** A force acting on a unit area. Usually shown as pounds per square inch (psi).

(a) *Absolute pressure* (psia). The sum of the atmospheric pressure and gauge pressure (psig).

(b) *Atmospheric pressure.* The pressure of air at sea level, usually 14.7 psia (one atmosphere), or 0 psig.