

REFERENCE PROJECT

Confined Space: Inspection

Location: Auckland and Timaru
Date: January 2019
Client: Holcim

The Holcim Cement storage domes were built to 28m tall in Auckland and 33m in Timaru. Construction was a composite of reinforcing steel and concrete with a 2mm thick polyurethane skin. They were each designed with a capacity of 30,000tons of cement powder but both had an approximate 7,000tons of product remaining which the client couldn't offload.

With both domes almost empty and fresh shipment days away, Abseil Access were contracted to make safe entry into each dome, check whether there was in fact product remaining, then map the product location and assess why there was build up.

Access was through a hatch on the 'roof' of each dome, offset from centre. We utilised a team of our confined space qualified rope access technicians and one of our standard tri-pods.

After a thorough review of the safety procedures, an initial high-level entry confirmed that the airborne particles were minimal, so progress was made down to deck level.

The lack of contamination was confirmed, measurements and samples taken, reported to the Client, and closed up within the day.

