



## 'Lone Working'

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### **Health and Safety at Work (General Risk and Workplace Management) Regulations 2016**

#### **Regulation 21: Managing risks associated with remote or isolated work**

##### Guidance

Work can be remote or isolated from the assistance of other persons because of location, time, or the nature of the work. Work can be isolated without being remote, and be remote without being isolated.

Remote or isolated work includes:

- working alone or separated from colleagues
- working in a geographically isolated or inaccessible area –where the nearest emergency help (eg fire service or hospital) is some distance away
- working outside normal business hours or shift/night work
- working in locations where communication is difficult

***PCBUs should first consider whether the remote or isolated work is necessary***

**(WorkSafe Guidance Continued)**

For lone workers, consider:

- is the work suitable to be carried out by a lone worker or if the worker proposed to carry out the work has the competence to work alone and be unsupervised?
- can the work be done using a buddy system?
- what support systems (such as radio telephones, man-down alarms, emergency procedures and first aid kits, and safety checks) may help to reduce the risk?
- If remote or isolated work is to take place PCBU's must follow the prescribed risk management process and provide a system of work that includes effective communication

**How do ESI companies currently manage the risks?**

Considerations:

- Planned v reactive work
- Working on or near to live equipment
- Remote work
- WAH
- Night work
- Emergency restoration of power in storm etc situations

**For discussion:**

- What is “lone working”?
- What are the ESI activities/tasks that should not be carried out by “lone workers”?
- Is there a consistent approach to the issue across the ESI?



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