

SAFEGUARDS



Information

KEEPING STAFF SAFE IN REMOTE AND ISOLATED LOCATIONS

OBJECTIVE

The nature and location of some work situations can reduce an employee's capacity to summons assistance in the event of injury, illness, violence or an emergency.

Examples of this type of work include:

- Where the location of the work is remote in terms of distance from others
- Where a person works alone, for example a single employee in a shop
- Work that involves foreseeable risks but which is often performed alone and out of normal hours e.g. security guards, cleaners.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Under the *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare (OHSW) Act 1986*, employers must implement measures to prevent injury and risks, for the health and safety of their workers.

Futhermore, Division 2.14 of the *Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations 1995*, requires employers to ensure that regular communication is maintained with workers who are working in remote or solated areas and that an adequate and reliable system for ensuring regular communication with these workers is provided and maintained.

If you employ people to work in such remote or isolated areas, where regular communication is unavailable, you will need to implement an appropriate system which guarantees the safety of these workers.

RISK CONTROL MEASURES

Measures that could be implemented to control the risk of injury in remote or isolated areas include:

- Inducting and training workers for specific jobs involving remote or isolated work
- Establishing procedures for specific tasks
- Establishing procedures for emergency situations
- Providing suitable first-aid equipment and training
- Providing a list of emergency contact details in each vehicle
- Providing UHF radios and/or satellite telephones
- Establishing a vehicle maintenance program
- Enlisting the services of a monitoring service.

Employers must document all the procedures and arrangements that are in place to protect the health and safety of workers. It is also necessary to keep records of any training provided for workers.

Adopting an effective risk management approach – identifying the hazards, assessing the risks and putting in place control measures to eliminate or minimize the risks – and consulting with your workers, union and OHS representatives will improve the safety of workers and avoid costly disruption to your business.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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