



GUIDANCE

Lone working

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Reference: HSE document on Lone Working, The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and Approved Code of Practice

SITUATION:

SAFed Engineer Surveyors are required by the nature of their employment to work on their own. SAFed member companies have lone working procedures in place but will require the co-operation of owner/users in providing additional monitoring and assistance as they are local to the deployment of the Engineer Surveyor. Owner/users will be aware that under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, Section 3 and 4, they have specific responsibilities for persons on their site, e.g. SAFed Engineer Surveyors.

GUIDANCE

1. Definition of lone working

1.1 Lone workers are those who work by themselves without close or direct supervision. If such workers were to suffer an accident or incident leading to loss of mobility and/or consciousness it could be some time before they are discovered and receive attention. Lone workers may also be at risk of aggression or violence from a third party.

2. Owner/user requirements

2.1 SAFed Engineer Surveyors may work in remote locations e.g. machine rooms, boiler houses, basements, lift shafts etc. Owner/users must have procedures in place to monitor the safety of Engineer Surveyors. These will depend on the risk to the Engineer Surveyor, the site layout and specific hazards. Examples could include:

- A method for booking in and out of site so that the Engineer Surveyor can be accounted for in the event of an emergency.
- Providing a chaperone.
- Monitoring the Engineer Surveyor at regular intervals by sight or other means of communication.
- Providing a suitable communication device e.g. walkie talkie.

2.2 Owner/users must have a mechanism for notifying an Engineer Surveyor that there is an emergency situation and that he/she needs to evacuate. Sometimes emergency alarms cannot be heard where an Engineer Surveyor is working and so other warning mechanisms will need to be in place.

2.3 Engineer Surveyors are not permitted to work alone in unoccupied premises unless safe systems are in place (including an appropriate method of communication.).



- 2.4 Owner/users and Engineer Surveyors must take cognisance of the combination of hazards that may be associated with lone working and make appropriate decisions on the controls necessary.

The combination of hazards may include, but is not limited to unmanned areas, working at height, substances hazardous to health in the vicinity of the inspection.

- 2.5 For the special case of entry into confined spaces to carry out internal examinations of pressure vessels and boilers the SAFed document “PSG 10” should be read in conjunction with this guidance.