

5.0 LONE WORKERS

5.1 Background

"Lone working" is defined as "Anyone who has no visual or audible contact with a second person who could provide assistance in case of emergency." Examples of lone working are porters/cleaners who work early/late shifts, laboratory workers who work behind closed doors in restricted areas, employees who travel alone to other places of work, and maintenance staff who work unsocial hours.

5.2 Applicable Legislation

Health & Safety at Work Act section 2 and 3

5.3 Procedure

Forest Edge Construction will so far as is reasonably practicable avoid the need for employees to carry out work on their own. Where this is not possible, we will ensure the suitability of persons required to become lone workers.

Company Directors will check lone workers have no medical condition that makes them unsuitable for lone working. Consideration of suitability needs to take account of routine and foreseeable emergencies that may impose additional physical and mental burdens on any employee.

All job functions will be considered to identify hazards and to assess risks. If there is an increased likelihood of an accident and/or the severity of injury or harm is increased due to the person working alone, then additional or alternative control measures will be required to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

Findings of the risk assessment will be recorded.

All lone workers are to have regular contact with other appointed persons and contact must be made before the end of a shift.

If for any reason you feel threatened at any time, you must leave the work area and make contact with a company Director and / or works Supervisor.

Lone Workers factors for consideration

Access/egress

Can you enter and leave the area/building safely, especially in an emergency? Are any doors locked? Can they be opened without the need of a key? Is the access/egress to the building safe at night?

Machinery

The use of powered machinery where there is a significant risk of entrapment/entanglement etc must not be permitted by lone workers.

Manual Handling

Are you required to lift/carry items beyond your capability? Have you received training?

Hazardous substances

Is there the serious possibility of accidental release of material which could cause acute injury?

Contact with the general public

Are you likely to confront members of the public acting in an antisocial or aggressive fashion?