



Lone and 'Out of Hours' Working

Module 4



Health & Safety
Essentials

Registered charity number 207890

Overview of lone working

It is common during normal hours for chemists and other scientist to work alone to some extent merely by being in a separate laboratory and instrument room. However, it is the type of work activity, the hazards involved, its duration, the competence, experience and abilities of the person carrying out the work, and its location that will have a significant part to play in deciding if it requires further risk control measures needed for lone working and 'out of hours' working.

Risk assessment is the process to identify appropriate control measures which provide an effective and proportionate response to managing the risk.

The established 'hierarchy of controls' should be applied to lone working just as with managing risks from other sources.

Training can be crucial in enabling people to cope in unexpected circumstances. The level of training provided should be proportionate and based on the supervisor/line manager's assessment. The level of supervision required is determined by the risk assessment.

Lone workers should not be at more risk than other workers. If the risk assessment and control measures being considered are becoming increasingly complex, it is definitely time to reconsider if the lone working being proposed is appropriate.

