

Certain risks must be dealt with following the risk management process prescribed in the GRWM Regulations.

PCBUs must manage risks associated with remote or isolated work, work involving atmospheres with potential for fire or explosion, raised and falling objects, loose but enclosed materials, and substances hazardous to health by following the risk management process prescribed in the GRWM Regulations. These risks are described in this part of the Guidelines.

3.1 Remote or isolated work

REGULATION	<i>Regulation 21: Managing risks associated with remote or isolated work</i>
GUIDANCE	<p>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.</p> <p>Remote or isolated work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 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. <p>Examples of remote or isolated work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Jim and his apprentice working late at a building site. Apart from them, everyone else had left for the day. > Bob carrying out an urgent repair in a workshop on a day the business is normally closed. > Ken and his team working in the basement of a large office building. Occupants of the building do not have access to the basement. > Dick mowing the grass verge beside a quiet country road where there is limited to no mobile coverage. > Members of a forestry gang working in hard-to-get-to locations. > A carer undertaking solo home visits to members of the public. > Petrol station attendants on night shift. <p>PCBUs should first consider whether the remote or isolated work is necessary.</p> <p>For lone workers, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 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, PCBUs must follow the prescribed risk management process described in Section 2 of these Guidelines to manage risks to the health and safety of a worker who performs remote or isolated work.

In addition, the PCBU must provide a system of work that includes effective communication with workers. What constitutes an effective communication system will also depend on the sorts of risks faced by the worker (and may need to include panic systems). A communication system that has gaps in coverage or cannot be used in an emergency is unlikely to be effective.

Examples of control measures for remote or isolated workers include to:

- > have a buddy system or to work together with others
- > be trained in emergency procedures including what to do during natural disasters
- > carry appropriate supplies including suitable first aid equipment
- > have access to adequate facilities (water, eating facilities, toilets, accommodation) at the remote location
- > carry communication devices that work at the remote location (eg radio, satellite or cell phones, pagers or distress beacons) and another means to raise the alarm
- > contact home to check-in at specified times (or are contacted by another worker at specific times) with failure to check-in triggering the emergency response plan
- > be remotely monitored (eg using CCTV).

Remember: PCBUs must first try to eliminate a risk if this is reasonably practicable. If it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate, the risk must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable.

For a copy of the full document go to:

<http://www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/information-guidance/all-guidance-items/hswa-interpretive-guidelines/general-risk-and-workplace-management-part-2/hswa-general-risk-part-2.pdf>

Here is a shorter version of the above PDF file (this url is case-sensitive): <https://goo.gl/RZ8hTT>