MMBE Lone Working and Out-of-hours Working Policy

Introduction

The University Lone Working Policy Rev 1.0 (Appendix A) was passed by College Board in June 2020. Some key points from the policy include:

1. The College acknowledges that the risk will vary depending on the nature of the work that is being carried out whilst working alone. General office-based activities or ‘paperwork’ type activities are generally classified as being low to medium risk and are acceptable under normal conditions and can be covered through the local area safety statement.

2. The majority of laboratory work, maintenance works, workshop activities, fieldwork in remote areas, handling of hazardous (biological, chemical, radioactive) agents, etc. are likely to be medium to high risk activities and must not be undertaken without completion of a Lone Worker Risk Assessment. The college also acknowledges that there are also some activities that must not be carried out alone, and that some activities (low risk fieldwork or research) may also fall into a lower risk category too.

3. The overall Policy is to keep to a minimum the number of lone workers within college. Where lone working occurs, it is the responsibility of the Head of School/Unit/Discipline to ensure that staff and students comply with this policy and risk assessments are carried out for particular tasks and activities.

4. A Unit may introduce local rules and policies that impose other arrangements relating to lone working provided that the minimum requirements of this policy are met.

5. It is recommended that undergraduate students should never be engaged in lone working, i.e. are not be permitted out-of-hours access to buildings other than designated 24-hr facilities or with direct supervision.

6. The extent of supervision required depends on the risks involved and the ability of the lone worker to identify and handle safety and health issues. Employees new to a job, undergoing training, doing a job which presents special risks, or dealing with new situations may need to be accompanied at first. The level of supervision required is a management decision, which should be based on the findings of risk assessment, i.e. the higher the risk, the greater the level of supervision required. It should not be left to individuals to decide whether they require assistance.
Lone Working and Out-of-hours Working

MMBE Lone Working and Out-of-hours Working Policy has been established to comply with the University Policy by ensuring, as far as reasonably practical, safe systems of work and a safe environment for those who work alone or out-of-hours. The overall policy is to keep the number of lone workers and out-of-hours workers within MMBE to a minimum.

Lone working is not only restricted to out-of-hours working, lone working can occur at any time. Out-of-ours working can eliminate the lone working element by using a “buddy” system. Where this is not possible, lone working should not occur out-of-hours.

Lone Workers are those who work by themselves without close or direct supervision or without direct or close contact with a colleague. This means working in an environment in which, if rendered incapacitated or unconscious, a person cannot reasonably expect to be found within 15 minutes. The main hazard in lone working is that in the event of an accident that incapacitates them, a person will not be able to contact or summon help.

Examples of lone working both during normal working hours and outside of normal hours might include:

- **Risk category A**, persons working alone in an office, reception or classroom
- **Risk category B**, persons working alone at a lab-based PC
- **Risk category C**, persons working alone within a laboratory to complete routine experimental work
- **Risk category D**, persons working alone within a laboratory or workshop to complete potentially hazardous work

Where lone working occurs, staff and students must comply with this policy, risk assessments for lone working above Risk category A within MMBE are compulsory. All equipment RAs and SOPs, must also be up to date before you commence your work.

Undergraduates are not permitted to engage in lone working within MMBE. Any project/experimental work is prohibited unless there is direct supervision by suitably competent staff.

A Lone Working App is under development for use within the University. This will be the system to be used for lone working across the University, MMBE are hoping to participate in phase 1 of its implementation. This policy will be updated as soon as the system is available.

The purpose of the Lone Working App is to increase safety and security to isolated individuals within the University. The purpose of the App is not to promote or increase the amount of lone working. An in-lab buddy system is still the safest system for working in remote areas or out of hours.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Category</th>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Risk Rating</th>
<th>Work type</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Supervisor² / Buddy³ Level Required for Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>1 – 2</td>
<td>Desk based/ 3D Printing/loading/unloading FDM prints only</td>
<td>Office/PC lab/Seminar room</td>
<td>Not required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Low – Medium</td>
<td>3 – 6</td>
<td>Desk based/3D Printing (monitoring)</td>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td>1 – 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>8 – 12</td>
<td>Basic Experimental Set-up/Monitoring</td>
<td>Laboratory/ MakerSpace</td>
<td>1 – 3² 1 – 5³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Medium – High</td>
<td>15 – 16</td>
<td>Experimental Set-up/ Manufacturing</td>
<td>Laboratory/ Workshop</td>
<td>1 – 3⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>20 – 25</td>
<td><strong>No work permitted, add safety controls to reduce the risks involved.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Lone/Out-of-hours Working Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Category</th>
<th>Approval Required</th>
<th>Risk Assessment⁵</th>
<th>Pre-booked Workspace</th>
<th>MMBE Sign In/Out</th>
<th>SafeZone App⁶</th>
<th>Person-Down Device⁶</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 MMBE Access Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Head of Department, Chief Technical Officer, Department Safety Officer, TBSI Safety Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Experimental Officer, Technical Staff, Area Expert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Post-Doctoral Researcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Research Assistant, PhD Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MSc/MAI Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Undergraduate Student</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Use the IOSH 5 x 5 Risk Matrix  
2 Applies to undergraduate students  
3 Applies to postgrads and staff  
4 Requires weekly approval from Safety Officer  
5 Refer to the University Lone Working Policy Rev 1.0 (Appendix A) when completing your RA  
6 When Lone Working App is implemented
MMBE Guidance for Lone Working and Out-of-hours Working

- Normal working hours in MMBE are 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday
  - TBSI normal working hours are 7am to 10pm, 7 days per week
- Out-of-hours access can be granted in Parsons and WATTS buildings from 6pm to 9pm on weekdays and from 10am to 4pm at weekends
- All requests for out-of-hours access to TBSI must be approved in advance by the lab manager and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- All labs must be vacated between 9pm-8am on weekdays and from 4pm-10am at weekends
- A risk assessment of the intended work must be completed and sent to the Department Safety Officer
  - This can be part of your project risk assessment
  - A copy should also be kept by the PI
- The PI must be informed of the intention to work out of hours, i.e. between 6pm and 9pm in the evening from Monday to Friday and between 10am and 4pm at weekends
- Approval must be given, with a record of approval (e.g. e-mail) available on request by the Head of Department or Department Safety Officer
- All equipment RA’s and SOP’s must be up to date before you commence your work
- Equipment/Workspace should be booked in advance as space is limited
- If you are working in a laboratory with a key-code lock, you must leave the door unlocked while you are in the laboratory
- The online Out of Hours Working Sign In/Out form should be used when you start and again when you complete your work
- The University Lone Working App should be used for lone working and out-of-hours working when available.

![Risk Matrix](https://example.com/risk_matrix.png)

**Figure 1** IOSH Risk Matrix

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7 TBSI users should contact Simon Carroll
Appendix A

University Lone Working Policy and Guidance

Rev. 1.0

6/24/2020
University Lone Working Policy

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin has a duty to all staff and students that may have cause to be working alone, under the Safety Regulations, which state that:

Without prejudice to the generality of section 19 of the Act, an employer shall, in identifying hazards and assessing risks under that section, take account of particular risks, if any, affecting employees working alone at the place of work or working in isolation at remote locations;

to ensure they have a safe and healthy working environment. It is the policy of the University to comply with this legislation and any guidance made under this legislation and to conform, as far as is reasonably practicable, to best practice.

Trinity College Dublin further recognises that some staff and students are required to work alone while others choose to do so. In order to comply with the University Lone Working Policy appropriate measures must be put in place to provide safe systems of work and a safe environment for those who work alone, by the School, Unit or Discipline.

This policy on Lone Working will apply to all staff, visiting academics, students engaged in university work and contractors employed by the University while working in the University’s buildings, facilities and vehicles, to all staff and students working in buildings and facilities provided by other organisations and to those working in the community, on site visits and field trips. It equally applies to staff and students who are working abroad on College business or who are on work-based learning placements/internships that are part of their course in the University.

The College acknowledges that the risk will vary depending on the nature of the work that is being carried out whilst working alone. General office-based activities or ‘paperwork’ type activities are generally classified as being low to medium risk and are acceptable under normal conditions and can be covered through the local area safety statement.

The majority of laboratory work, maintenance works, workshop activities, fieldwork in remote areas, handling of hazardous (biological, chemical, radioactive) agents, etc. are likely to be medium to high risk activities and must not be undertaken without completion of a Lone Worker Risk Assessment. The college also acknowledges that there are also some activities that must not be carried out alone, and that some activities (low risk fieldwork or research) may also fall into a lower risk category too.

Heads of Units/Schools or Discipline and other responsible persons must ensure that this policy and associated guidance is fully complied with. A Unit may introduce local rules and policies that impose other arrangements relating to lone working provided that the minimum requirements of this policy are met.

All staff and students who carry out lone working must take care of their own safety and comply with all other university policies, local rules and procedures. Failure to comply with the policy will be considered a disciplinary issue and may result in any privilege to lone working being withdrawn.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure its adequacy and to assess its performance.

Approved by the Board of College on 24/06/2020
Guidance to the University Lone Working Policy

1.0 INTRODUCTION
The principal purpose of this Policy is to ensure a safe and healthy working environment for all lone workers (staff and students) in Trinity College, Dublin by developing a continuum of responses that ensure an environment where staff, students and visitors are safe.

Under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 2007, Regulation 2(3) states that:

2 (3) Without prejudice to the generality of section 19 of the Act, an employer shall, in identifying hazards and assessing risks under that section, take account of particular risks, if any, affecting employees working alone at the place of work or working in isolation at remote locations.

In addition, the Policy requires the University to reduce, so far as is reasonably practicable, all reasonably foreseeable risks associated with Lone Working and to detail arrangements to achieve this reduction in line with legislative requirements. The main hazards that are generally associated with lone working are exposure to violence and poor access to emergency assistance.

In the University context there are many examples of lone working both during normal working hours and outside of normal hours. These might include

- Persons working alone within a laboratory or workshop;
- Persons working alone in a remote office, reception or classroom;
- Staff carrying out field work alone
- Unaccompanied home visitors
- Cleaners
- Manual staff such as Electricians, Plant Operators and Drivers;
- Security staff.

2.0 SCOPE

The Policy on Lone Working will apply to all staff, visiting academics, students engaged in university work and contractors employed by the University while working in the University’s buildings, facilities and vehicles, to all staff and students working in buildings and facilities provided by other organisations and to those working in the community, on site visits and field trips. It equally applies to staff and students who are working abroad on College business or who are on work-based learning placements/internships that are part of their course in the University.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- Lone Workers are those who work by themselves without close or direct supervision or without direct or close contact with a colleague. In reality this means working in an environment in which, if rendered incapacitated or unconscious, a person cannot reasonably expect to be found within 15 minutes. The main hazard in lone working is that in the event of an accident that incapacitates them, a person will not be able to contact or summon help.
- It does not include the chance or occasional occurrence of being on one’s own at work. For example, in every workplace there is somebody who arrives first and somebody who leaves last, or an individual may need to go to an unoccupied storeroom etc.
- An individual who has either visual or audible communication with another employee is not considered as working alone.
• Lone working is not restricted to out-of-hours working but can occur at any time especially during fieldwork (i.e. study that consists of practical activities that are done away from your school or place of work)

4.0 PROCEDURES

• The overall Policy is to keep to a minimum the number of lone workers within college. Where lone working occurs, it is the responsibility of the Head of School/Unit/Discipline to ensure that staff and students comply with this policy and risk assessments are carried out for particular tasks and activities
• The assessment may be documented as part of a project risk assessment, as school local rules or documented in the local safety statement.
• The Lone Working Risk Categorisation Chart (Appendix 1) can be used to help identify the level of risk and ensure appropriate control measures are in place. This document provides guidance for such categorisation. Where Category B or D is selected i.e. in the case of isolated fieldwork or remote-working, additional location related assessments, i.e. travel assessments or teleworking assessments must be also completed.
• A checklist to assist in the identification of potential hazards is available in Appendix 2.
• A Unit may introduce local rules and policies that impose other arrangements relating to lone working provided that the minimum requirements of this policy are met.
• All staff and those students identified as Lone Workers should familiarize themselves with the contents of this Policy and the associated procedures.
• Employees have a duty of care to themselves and to others in relation to Health and Safety and must comply with any processes/control measures that have been provided by their school/unit/discipline for their safety. Questions should be directed to their relevant supervisors.
• Each Head of School / Head of Area must ensure that there are procedures in place for lone working (including out-of-hours access) and the associated supplementary documents such as risk assessments.
• It is recommended that undergraduate students should never be engaged in lone working, i.e. are not be permitted out-of-hours access to buildings other than designated 24-hr facilities or with direct supervision.
• The risk assessments should include general risks associated with the building (such as reduced heating, unlit corridors etc.) or the environment in which it is carried out in (e.g. in the community) and specific risks associated with the task.
• Lone working in the field or in the community is permitted only if the risk assessment shows that the risk is low and all that controls indicated by the risk assessment are implemented.
• Every lone working procedure or assessment must include a clear designation of responsibilities for enforcing the procedure, and any training requirements.
• Types of hazards that may be of a concern to lone working are detailed in Appendix 3, and examples of possible control measures are available in Appendix 4.
• Appendix 5 details examples of the lone working assessment process.

Any queries on this policy and its guidance notes can be sent to safetyoffice@tcd.ie
APPENDIX 1

LONE WORKING RISK CATEGORISATION CHART

START HERE

Does the lone working involve low risk activities, e.g. office work, teaching preparation, non-isolated fieldwork or non-hazardous laboratory work?

Yes

Is the lone work based in the university environs?

Yes

Risk Category A

No

Risk category B

No

Risk category C

Does the lone work involve manufacturing or the use of hazardous machinery and/or substances or involve an equivalent high risk activity, or is it a high risk environment/location?

Yes

Is this type of lone work based in university environs?

Yes

Risk category C

No

Risk category D

No

Risk category D

Is this lone work related to a health and social care or educational setting where statutory safety provisions and professional standards/fitness to practice regulations are in place?

Yes

Is this lone work based in the university environs?

Yes

Risk Category C

No

Risk category D

No

Risk category D

No

Risk category D

No

Risk category D
## Risk Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Category A</th>
<th>Risk Category B</th>
<th>Risk Category C</th>
<th>Risk Category D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low risk activities e.g. office work, teaching preparation, or non-hazardous laboratory work, carried out on campus</td>
<td>Lower risk activities e.g. non-isolated fieldwork, office-based work, carried out off campus either in Ireland or abroad</td>
<td>Lab-based or research type activities which depending on the risks associated with the work may require detailed assessments and procedures put in place</td>
<td>As Risk Category C but due to a different location (i.e. unavailability of Campus Emergency Procedures)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Risk, can be included in Safety Statement, with additional control measures mentioned in Appendix 4</td>
<td>Low-Medium depending on location of work, may require additional location related assessments; travel assessment; teleworking assessment</td>
<td>Medium-High, detailed procedures, assessments and control measures required</td>
<td>Medium-High, detailed procedures, assessments and control measures required, depending on location of work, may require additional location related assessments; travel assessment; teleworking assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


## APPENDIX 2. AN EXAMPLE OF A LONE WORKING HAZARD ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

To assist in completing the risk assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Y/N</th>
<th>Controls/further action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Nature of the Work</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it appropriate for the worker to be alone whilst carrying out particular work activities (eg a buddy should be on hand when working with most hazardous materials)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there adequate information and instruction for the worker to be able to work alone safely?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there hazards associated with the machinery, tools and equipment that may be used?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High risk activity (e.g. work at heights, with electricity, with hazardous substances or work with hazardous equipment, such as chainsaws or lathes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is fatigue likely to increase risk (e.g. with long hours driving a vehicle or operating machinery)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there risk of attack by an animal? (dogs during home visits)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the worker likely to be exposed to extremes of temperature?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the lone worker more at risk due to their gender, age or inexperience?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Location of the work</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the worker is working inside a locked building, will emergency services be able to gain access if the worker is unable to let them in</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If the worker is working inside a building, is there a system for emergency services to locate them (e.g. sign-in book) if the worker is unable to communicate with them directly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is lighting at entrances and exits to buildings and parking areas adequate?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are security measures adequate, including alarm maintenance and testing scheduling, video or patrols?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the work in a remote location?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the work in a location which increases the risk of violence to workers (e.g. from people affected by drugs or alcohol or in a location with a high incidence of crime)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the form of transport increase the risk (e.g. public transport in a remote or dangerous area)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there risks associated with the environment in which the work is carried</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trinity College Lone Working Policy 1.0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Aid and Emergencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is first aid equipment available for immediate treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there means of raising an alarm in the event of an emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there arrangements for a response to an emergency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the worker have access to a communications system (e.g. mobile or satellite phones, alarm systems)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will the emergency communication or alarm system work properly in all situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there procedures for regular contact with the worker who works alone?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there end-of-shift procedures for checking in with the worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are workers authorised to contact emergency services directly?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is voice communication essential for the safety of the worker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training and Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has the worker had training to prepare them for working alone and, where applicable, in remote locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the worker speak English (or the local language if abroad) or is there anything that would interfere with his or her ability to communicate with someone in an emergency?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there procedures to ensure knowledge of workers’ whereabouts (e.g. clients’ addresses, expected arrival and return times)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there procedures for incident reporting so that all workers are aware of local risks (e.g. clients’ history of violence)?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Other Hazards |
APPENDIX 3: POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH LONE WORKING

From:

The hazards facing "Lone Workers" are the same as for other workers; however they may face increased or additional risk from:-

- Lack of Supervision / Training
- Working in remote areas
- Sudden Illness / emergencies
- Risks related to transport / driving
- Effects of social isolation
- Communication
- Work Equipment
- Violence and abuse (from members of the public and others)
- Theft / Intruders
- Fire

What issues should the employer address when planning safe working arrangements for lone workers?

When establishing safe working arrangements for lone workers, employers need to know the law and standards that may apply to their specific work activity. They must then assess if the requirements of that work activity can be met by people working alone. Issues that need to be addressed when planning such safe working arrangements are:

1. Can the risks of the job be adequately controlled by one person?

Lone workers should not be at more risk than other employees. This may require extra risk control measures. Precautions should take account of normal work and foreseeable emergencies, e.g. fire, equipment failure, illness and accidents. Employers should identify situations where people work alone and ask questions such as:

- Does the workplace present a special risk to the lone worker?
- Is there a safe way in and a way out for one person? Can any temporary access equipment that is necessary, such as portable ladders or trestles, be safely handled by one person?
- Can all the plant, substances and goods involved in the work be safely handled by one person? Consider whether the work involves lifting objects too large for one person or whether more than one person is needed to operate essential controls for the safe running of equipment.
- Is there a risk of violence?
- Are women especially at risk if they work alone?
- Are young workers especially at risk if they work alone?

2. Is the person medically fit and suitable to work alone?

Check that lone workers have no medical conditions which may make them unsuitable for working alone. Seek medical advice if necessary. Consider both routine work and foreseeable emergencies, which may impose additional physical and mental burdens on the individual.

3. What training is required to ensure competency in safety matters?
Training is particularly important where there is limited supervision to control, guide and help in situations of uncertainty. Training may be critical to avoid panic reactions in unusual situations. Lone workers need to be sufficiently experienced and to understand the risks and precautions fully. Employers should set the limits to what can and cannot be done while working alone. They should ensure employees are competent to deal with circumstances that are new, unusual or beyond the scope of training, e.g. when to stop work and seek advice from a supervisor and how to handle aggression.

4. How will the person be supervised?

Although lone workers cannot be subject to constant supervision, it is still an employer’s duty to ensure their safety and health at work. Supervision can help to ensure that employees understand the risks associated with their work and that the necessary safety precautions are carried out. Supervisors can also provide guidance in situations of uncertainty. Supervision of safety and health can often be carried out when checking the progress and quality of the work; it may take the form of periodic site visits combined with discussions in which health and safety issues are raised.

The extent of supervision required depends on the risks involved and the ability of the lone worker to identify and handle safety and health issues. Employees new to a job, undergoing training, doing a job which presents special risks, or dealing with new situations may need to be accompanied at first. The level of supervision required is a management decision, which should be based on the findings of risk assessment, i.e. the higher the risk, the greater the level of supervision required. It should not be left to individuals to decide whether they require assistance.
APPENDIX 4: CONTROL MEASURES

WHAT CONTROL MEASURES COULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO MINIMISE THE RISK TO LONE WORKERS?

Therisk assessment should prescribe control measures to be implemented in order to eliminate/minimise the identified risks. Such control measures may include:

- communication is very important: mobile phone, telephone or radio
- controlled periodic checks
- Automatic warning devices, e.g. panic alarms, no movement alarms, automatic distress message systems, i.e. pre-recorded message sent if not actively cancelled by operative, etc.
- Instruction and training in proper procedures, e.g. code words for potentially violent situations when combined with mobile phone communication.
- use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- health surveillance
- first-aid kits and training
- implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s)
- locking and securing place of work
- implementing correct incident reporting procedures
- provision of counselling
- buddy system
- Location/locating systems, i.e. monitored system by App or Specific device
- Specific emergency procedures

The chart below details the relationship between the categories (Appendix 1) and control measures (Appendix 4) and guides one to the type of control measures that may be required or considered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control Measures†</th>
<th>Category A</th>
<th>Category B</th>
<th>Category C</th>
<th>Category D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Means of communication: mobile phone, telephone, radio</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled Periodic Checks</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic warning devices*, e.g. panic alarms, man-down alarms, automatic distress message systems, i.e. pre-recorded message sent if not actively cancelled by operative, etc.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Surveillance</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Aid Kits and First Aid Training</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locking and securing place of work</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruction, Information and Training</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prohibition of Lone working?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional assessments based on location</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† This would not be exhaustive and dependent on the work, individual, location

* Monitored system by App or Specific device
APPENDIX 5. EXAMPLES OF THE LONE WORKING ASSESSMENT PROCESS

N.B. Examples are simply illustrative, and are not designed to be exhaustive nor to suggest that superficially similar cases need the same control measures. These are dependent on the specific work, individual, and location involved.

CATEGORY A

START HERE

Does the lone working involve low risk activities, e.g. office work, teaching preparation, non-isolated fieldwork or non-hazardous laboratory work?  

Yes

Is the lone work based in the university environs?  

Yes

Risk Category A

Low risk activities e.g. office work, teaching preparation, or non-hazardous laboratory work, carried out on campus

Low Risk, can be included in Safety Statement, with additional control measures mentioned in Appendix 4

Specifically, Category A would be assigned to those working in an office environment, possibly at weekends when less people are around. The protection of lone workers can be described in the local safety statement which may include the requirements:

1. To have a means of communication, i.e. a mobile phone or telephone to advise someone where they will be or to raise the alarm;
2. To use the Safezone App to check in when you arrive and check out when you leave. If necessary, you can use the alert buttons to raise an alert too; and
3. To provide instruction and information on the process, how to use the App and how to raise an alarm in an emergency.
Does the lone working involve low risk activities, e.g. office work, teaching preparation, non-isolated fieldwork or non-hazardous laboratory work?

Yes

Is the lone work based in the university environs?

No

Risk category B

Lower risk activities e.g. non-isolated fieldwork, office-based work, carried out off campus either in Ireland or abroad

Low-Medium depending on location of work, may require additional location related assessments; travel assessment; teleworking assessment

As for Category A, the same will apply but by virtue of the change in location, additional assessments in relation to your new location or travel will also be required and these may be used to include the information on working alone. In this case, these assessments can include the information specifically on protection while lone working, i.e.:

1. To have a means of communication, i.e. a mobile phone or telephone to advise someone where they will be or to raise the alarm;
2. To use the Safezone App to check in when you arrive and check out when you leave. If necessary, you can use the alert buttons to raise an alert too.
3. Provision of information on the process, how to use the App and how to raise an alarm in an emergency.
The risk assessment should prescribe control measures to be implemented in order to eliminate/minimise the identified risks. For this category the lone working checklist should be completed.

Such control measures may include:

- communication is very important: mobile phone, telephone or radio
Trinity College Lone Working Policy 1.0

- controlled periodic checks
- Automatic warning devices, e.g. panic alarms, no movement alarms, automatic distress message systems, i.e. pre-recorded message sent if not actively cancelled by operative, etc.
- first-aid kits and training
- implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s)
- locking and securing place of work
- implementing correct incident reporting procedures
- provision of counselling
- Location/locating systems, i.e. monitored system by App or Specific device
- Specific emergency procedures

Specifically, **Category C** suggests the following control measures are considered. These would not be exhaustive and dependent on the work, and the individual:

1. Means of communication: mobile phone, telephone, radio
2. Controlled Periodic Checks
3. Automatic warning devices*, e.g. Safezone App, panic alarms, man-down alarms, automatic distress message systems, i.e. pre-recorded message sent if not actively cancelled by operative, etc.
4. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
5. Health Surveillance
6. First Aid Kits and First Aid Training
7. Implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s)
8. Locking and securing place of work
9. Instruction, Information and Training
10. Prohibition of Lone working
Risk Category D (as Risk Category C but due to a different location (i.e. unavailability of Campus Emergency Procedures))

Medium-High, detailed procedures, assessments and control measures required, depending on location of work, may require additional location related assessments; travel assessment; teleworking assessment

The risk assessment should prescribe control measures to be implemented in order to eliminate/minimise the identified risks. For this category the lone working checklist should be completed.
Such control measures may include:

- communication is very important: mobile phone, telephone or radio
- controlled periodic checks
- Automatic warning devices, e.g. panic alarms, no movement alarms, automatic distress message systems, i.e. pre-recorded message sent if not actively cancelled by operative, etc.
- first-aid kits and training
- implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s)
- locking and securing place of work
- implementing correct incident reporting procedures
- provision of counselling
- Location/locating systems, i.e. monitored system by App or Specific device
- Specific emergency procedures

Specifically, **Category D** suggests the following control measures are considered. These would not be exhaustive and dependent on the work, individual, and location:

1. Means of communication: mobile phone, telephone, radio
2. Controlled Periodic Checks
3. Automatic warning devices*, e.g. Safezone App, panic alarms, man-down alarms, automatic distress message systems, i.e. pre-recorded message sent if not actively cancelled by operative, etc.
4. Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
5. Health Surveillance
6. First Aid Kits and First Aid Training
7. Implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s)
8. Locking and securing place of work
9. Instruction, Information and Training
10. Prohibition of Lone working