

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



Western Australian Work Health and Safety Act & Regulation – Remote or Isolated Work

Number: 61

Issued: 29/03/2022

Background

The WHS Act and accompanying regulations will come into effect 31st March 2022.

Under the new legislation all “Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking” (PCBU) have an increased duty of care for the health and wellbeing of all workers, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Division 6 – Remote or isolated work, requires the PCBU to ensure they provide a system of work that includes effective communication with the worker who may be involved in remote or isolated work.

Workers in forestry are frequently exposed to risks associated with working alone or in isolation.

Control Measures

“DO NOT” rely on end of the day call.

PCBU’s must:

- Confirm when a worker has arrived at a worksite.
- Periodically check the wellbeing of workers during the workday.
- Confirm when a worker has left the worksite at the end of the workday.

Ensure your system is documented and demonstratable.

Options to manage remote or isolated workers:

- machinery and vehicle GPS monitoring and tracking systems.
- satellite trackers with pre-set messaging.
- mobile phone apps which are trackable (eg: Life 360, Simple IN/OUT)
- designated check-in, via mobile phones, satellite phones, UHF or VHF radio.
- supervisor daily catchups.