

Working in Isolation Approval Process



University of Wisconsin
Stevens Point

Last updated 10/12/21 – Prepared by Christina Rickert, Controller

Background

1. This approval process provides a risk evaluation framework for compliance with UWSA Policy 620: Working in Isolation.
2. UW Stevens Point is committed to providing safe and healthy higher education environment for students, faculty, staff and others using university programs and facilities. As part of this commitment, it is essential that the university have completed risk assessments, hazard analyses, and procedures in place for circumstances that may require an individual to work in isolation in a hazardous, potentially hazardous, or high-risk environment.

Definitions

Emergency Assistance: A means of communication to gain assistance in the event of an emergency involving an accident or serious injury, illness, or threat of violence.

Hazard Analysis: A job assessment technique to identify hazards before they occur which focuses on the relationship between the worker, the task, the tools, and the work environment.

Hazardous Chemicals: Any chemical which is classified as a physical or health hazard, a simple asphyxiant, combustible dust, pyrophoric gas or hazard not otherwise classified (29 CFR 1920.1200).

Hazardous Materials: Any substance or material that may pose an un-reasonable risk to health, safety, property, or the environment (40 CFR 261; 49 CFR 171).

Hazardous Operations: Activities that may pose a reasonable risk to health, property, or the environment. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, operations involving electrical or mechanical hazards, high temperature or extreme weather conditions, hot work, etc. See [Appendix](#) for UWSA Policy 620 for a list of potentially hazardous operations.

Person in Charge of the Work: One who is qualified, has supervisory or management authority or is delegated by an authority to have control of the work such as a Principal Investigator, department manager or supervisor. This qualified person can identify the hazards associated with the work at hand and has the responsibility for safety compliance.

Potentially Hazardous Environment: Examples include teaching and research laboratories, studios and workshops, greenhouses and agricultural fieldwork, areas where grounds and maintenance activities occur, other research facilities, etc. See [Appendix](#) for UWSA Policy 620 for a list of potentially hazardous operations.

Working in Isolation: Individuals are working in isolation when they cannot be seen or heard by another qualified individual, cannot expect a visit from another individual within a reasonable amount of time, and/or where assistance is not available when needed.

Approval Process

- A. Individuals conducting hazardous operations or using hazardous chemicals or materials within campus laboratories, studios and workshops, research facilities or similar environments ordinarily should NOT work in isolation. Those performing maintenance or repair of equipment or campus property involving hazardous operations, chemicals or materials ordinarily should NOT work in isolation. At least one other individual who is knowledgeable of safety equipment and can come to the aid of the worker should be in visual or audible range. These procedures do not supersede activities that have more stringent requirements such as permit required confined spaces.
- B. Individuals may work in isolation if an explicit written request from the person in charge of the work is approved. Confirmation of this approval will be in the form a permit issued to the individual working in isolation. The permit may be granted if the person in charge of the work has completed the checklist of items and provided documentation supporting the checklist, if requested. The checklist, documentation supporting the checklist items, and permit must be stored in an easy to find location, that is accessible to all and available at all times.

References and Related Documents

[OSHA Act 1970](#), General Duty Clause, SEC. 5. Duties

[Regent Policy Document 23-2, Health, Safety, and Security at UW System](#)

[Wis. Stat. § 101.11](#), Employer's duty to furnish safe employment and place

[UWSA Policy 620](#): Working in Isolation