

NE-CAT User Work Alone Policy

NE-CAT is fully committed to comply with the "Work Alone" policy of Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). Laboratory policy allows individuals to work alone as long as they "... will not be subject to increased risk as a consequence." The NE-CAT Sector 24 facility consists of "routine laboratory hazards" as defined by the Laboratory and, therefore, represents low risks to users. To meet Laboratory requirements, before work alone is permitted, an assessment must be made as to the need that the user must work alone, is the individual capable of working alone, will the user have ready access to communication systems to contact the appropriate personnel in the event of an emergency, and is the user knowledgeable of emergency procedures.

NE-CAT recommends that users visit the facility in groups, at least a minimum of two persons. However, if a researcher must work alone, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The user shall notify the NE-CAT support staff assigned responsibility for that user that he/she intends to work alone and must receive prior approval to do so.
2. The NE-CAT support staff member may grant permission to the user to work alone by considering that the following factors (but not limited to) such as user competency, experience, language fluency and physical abilities do not contribute to increased risk when working alone.
3. If approval is granted, the NE-CAT support staff shall insure that the user is trained on the proper procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency. The user must also be instructed as to where the emergency procedures and the NE-CAT call list are posted.
4. During normal business hours, the NE-CAT support staff shall check on the status of the user periodically.