



Health and Safety Guidance

GUIDANCE/32/UAE/12

Unattended Apparatus and Equipment

Introduction

This guidance applies primarily to experimental equipment and apparatus. However, whenever possible, proprietary equipment should be turned off when unattended to minimise the risk of an electrical fire and to reduce energy consumption.

Arrangements for leaving equipment and apparatus unattended are designed primarily to ensure safety. Important research and other work can be lost or damaged by equipment or apparatus being turned off unnecessarily and so effective arrangements have other benefits.

Experimental Apparatus and Equipment

Such apparatus and equipment may present a risk and will not be familiar to security, maintenance or emergency personnel. It may be supplied with a variety of services, such as water, mains or compressed gas, and electricity and may contain hazardous substances or other risks such as extremes of pressure, temperature and radiation sources. These could cause significant problems in the event of a failure or an incident occurring.

The design of such apparatus should include the incorporation of fail-to-safety features to cover all foreseeable events that could create risks to people or property. Variation in supply of services should be considered including power failure or surges and changes in pressure of water (e.g. water pressure will often rise during the night) or gases.

Details of emergency contacts and any special instructions and procedures to follow in the event of an emergency should be readily available including out of hours.

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