

Laser Safety

Safety Meeting Packet

Protect Your Workforce



A laser is a device that generates an intense beam of light. In most cases the laser consists of a sealed tube that contains two mirrors, a laser medium, and an energy source. Lasers are widely used, such as at grocery stores in barcode scanners and at construction worksites for leveling purposes. With lasers being so common, it is important for employees to understand the health and safety risks associated with laser use and the proper precautions to take when using them.

Hazards

The hazard to health and safety depends on the type of laser and its classification. There are four hazard classes (I, II, III, IV) of lasers with three subclasses (IIa, IIIa, and IIIb). Laser power and the potential for injury increase with each class.

Hazards associated with different classifications:

- I – Non-hazardous; however, the health and safety risk increases when viewed through a magnifying device (example: laser printer, laser levels)
- II, IIa – Hazardous when viewed for long periods of time or when viewed through a magnifying device (example: barcode scanner)
- IIIa – Hazard depends largely on how powerful the laser is and the beam area. It can be hazardous when viewed directly or when viewed through a magnifying device (example: laser pointers)
- IIIb – Pose an immediate hazard to the skin and eyes when viewed directly (example: industrial lasers)
- IV – Pose an immediate hazard to the skin and eyes when exposed to direct beam or reflected beam and can also be a fire hazard (example: industrial lasers)

Laser Safety Program

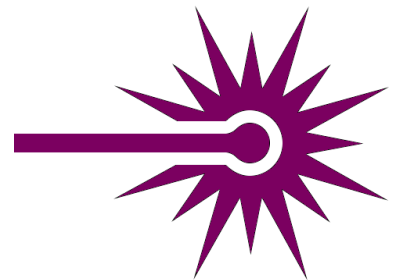
ANSI Z136.1 indicates that an employer should have a Laser Safety Program in place under certain circumstances. The program is required if Class IIIb or IV laser systems are used but may apply in other situations. A key part of the Laser Safety Program is appointing a properly trained Laser Safety Officer. This individual is responsible for administering the Laser Safety Program, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Confirming laser classification
- Assure proper laser controls are in place
- Require appropriate labels and signage
- Provide laser safety training
- Approve protective equipment

Precautions

To safely use and work with lasers in the workplace, consider using the following precautions:

- Never look directly at a laser beam or point a laser beam at another person.
- Make sure to read the manufacturer's warning for the piece of equipment.
- Utilize eye protection that is approved for the hazard class of laser operated.
- Confirm that the beam is appropriately enclosed.
- Post the appropriate, ANSI-approved laser warning sign for the type of laser being used.



For additional information, review ANSI Z136.1 through Z136.9 and OSHA Personal Protective Equipment Standards 29 CFR 1910.132 and 1910.133.



Laser Safety

Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name _____
 Department / Division _____
 Meeting Date & Time _____ AM PM
 Meeting Location _____
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting _____

Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

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Internal Procedures Reviewed:

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By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print):	(Print):	(Print):
(Sign):	(Sign):	(Sign):
(Print):	(Print):	(Print):
(Sign):	(Sign):	(Sign):
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(Sign):	(Sign):	(Sign):

Employees not present: _____

Suggestions/Recommendations to improve workplace safety and health: _____

Actions Taken: _____

Manager/Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Disclaimer:

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.
