

RECOMMENDED LASER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Laser Safety Officer (LSO) shall insure that all laser operators are qualified and trained. The training program should be designed according to the Class of laser used. The LSO shall maintain documentation of training including the names of personnel trained and the dates of when training was conducted. Upon completion of the training, a copy of this documentation should be provided to the Office of Risk Management.

A. CLASS I TRAINING:

Class I training can be limited, in general, to information contained in the operation / maintenance manuals of the laser Manufacturer. No additional operator training is necessary provided the Class I status is maintained.

B. CLASS II, CLASS IIA AND CLASS IIIA TRAINING:

Class II, Class IIA and Class IIIA training can include information contained in the operation/maintenance manuals of the laser Manufacturer and, where appropriate, additional basic laser safety guidelines. Short, concise audio-visual programs can also enhance the understanding of hazards in some use scenarios especially where Class II, Class IIA or Class IIIA laser systems are subject to frequent operator changes.

C. CLASS IIIB AND CLASS IV TRAINING:

Class IIIB and Class IV training is recommended for those working with Class IIIB and Class IV lasers. The training should provide a complete understanding of the requirements of a safe laser environment and include discussion of the hazards, safety devices required, procedures related to operating the equipment, warning sign requirements and description of medical surveillance practices. Emphasis should be placed on practical, safe laser techniques and procedures as well as safety devices that provide an overall safe environment.

D. LASER SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING:

Laser Safety Officer training is required for the facility LSO. This can be a comprehensive multi-day course which covers the all key aspects of laser safety and an in-depth review of the appropriate standards, OSHA requirements, and needs for state and local compliance, as appropriate.

E. TAILORED TRAINING SESSIONS:

There often will be a need to tailor the laser safety training session for each of the different groups that use lasers in the facility. Often the type of laser(s) and locations will impact the content of the training program. For example, the hazards and controls recommended for the far-infrared CO₂ lasers are usually different than those for a near-infrared Nd:YAG laser or a visible Argon Ion laser. Where possible, the specific course content should be designed for the lasers and personnel in the environment.