

National Institutes of Health

# Laser Safety Program

2026

Authored by the Laser Safety Officer (LSO) and Deputy LSO with additional input, review, and the concurrence of the Laser Safety Advisory Committee (LSAC).

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## ACRONYMS

DS	Division of Safety
DLSO	Deputy Laser Safety Officer
IHCSB	Industrial Hygiene and Campus Safety Branch
LCA	Laser Controlled Area
LSAC	Laser Safety Advisory Committee
LSO	Laser Safety Officer
NIH	National Institutes of Health
OMS	Occupational Medical Service
ORS	Office of Research Services
PI	Principal Investigator
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

## **INTRODUCTION**

Over time, the applications for lasers in biomedical research and in clinical treatments have grown exponentially. This spectrum is on display at NIH, with lasers in use from optical imaging, where super-resolution microscopy can pinpoint single molecules, to laser therapies of the eye, where laser treatments may help reduce the probability of vision loss in some patients. As the number of novel laser techniques grows, so does the number of personnel who work directly with or around lasers; the majority of NIH institutes use lasers. Full realization of the benefits of lasers necessitates their safe use by everyone.

In Animal Research settings, lasers are prevalent in a variety of applications, from optical imaging to animal surgery. It is important to note that laboratory animal workers are not excluded from adopting Laser Safety in their workspace. Whether animal researchers are using a confocal microscope for imaging or performing laser surgery, the safe use of lasers must be applied. All animal study proposals involving laser use will be reviewed by the Laser Safety Officer (LSO).

### **I. PURPOSE**

The Laser Safety Program (LSP) has been developed to provide guidance and oversight for the safe use of lasers at NIH. The program aligns with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z136.1-2014 “Safe Use of Lasers”.

### **II. SCOPE**

The LSP applies to all NIH employees, contractors, and students working directly with or around Class 3B and Class 4 lasers and laser systems at official NIH facilities, hereinafter referred to as lasers.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Laser Safety Advisory Committee (LSAC):**

- a) Develop and manage the LSP.
- b) Verify safety practices and control methods by personnel using lasers.
- c) Investigate all incidents and accidents involving the use of lasers in NIH facilities; and
- d) Maintain an accurate inventory of lasers.

The current LSAC member list can be found here:

[https://ors.od.nih.gov/sr/dohs/safety/laboratory/Pages/laser\\_safety.aspx](https://ors.od.nih.gov/sr/dohs/safety/laboratory/Pages/laser_safety.aspx)

### **Laser Safety Officer (LSO):**

- a) Assist with laser hazard evaluation and verify laser equipment classification.
- b) Provide and/or facilitate laser safety training.
- c) Determine required safety practices and control measures critical for the implementation of a laser laboratory as specified by ANSI Z136.1 – 2014 *American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers* and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- d) Consult on the purchase of necessary laser safety materials (signs, labels, safety eyewear, etc.).
- e) Monitor and enforce program requirements.
- f) Conduct periodic reviews of the LSP.
- g) Develop and conduct laser safety surveys/inspections; and
- h) Provide technical guidance to the safety specialist on site-specific laser standard operating procedures (SOPs) and Animal Study Proposal (ASP) that involve the use of lasers.

### **Deputy Laser Safety Officer (DLSO):**

- a) Assist the LSO with the performance of his or her duties; and
- b) As deputy, will carry out the duties of the LSO when authorized.

### **Laser Safety Site Contact (LSSC):**

- a) Supervising laser usage in a specific area (e.g., eye clinic).
- b) Acting as a liaison between the clinical laser users and the LSO.
- c) Troubleshooting equipment problems.
- d) Acting as a resource to staff members and laser users
- g) Assessing the needs for continuing education and training.

### **Supervisors/Principal Investigators (PIs):**

- a) Register new lasers online at <https://go.usa.gov/xReGv> (accessible to users connected to the NIH network).
- b) Identify all laser hazards and implement all appropriate hazard controls. Correct any unsafe or non-compliant conditions in the laboratory.
- c) Identify all personnel who may operate, maintain, or work in close proximity to lasers and ensure training is completed at intervals specified by the LSP and maintain records of completion dates.
- d) Monitor all authorized personnel for compliance with the LSP.
- e) Ensure maintenance is conducted at proper intervals to keep lasers in safe working order.
- f) Maintain a copy of this written program in the workplace.
- g) Complete a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for each laser and location (lasers which share substantially similar procedures and/or locations can be combined into one SOP). SOPs shall be kept in locations so that personnel have access before entry into a Laser Controlled Area (LCA); and

- h) Report any major changes in laser operations to LSO (i.e: changes in laser set up/layout and laser location).
- i) Ensure assigned staff utilizing lasers and equipment with lasers review manufacturer operating manual, technical specifications and guidelines of each laser equipment.

**Laser Users:**

- a) Know all hazards and associated procedures for the safe use of lasers in the work area.
- b) Complete required training(s) as specified by a supervisor/PI, LSO, or the LSAC.
- c) Comply with the LSP and use good safety practices.
- d) Use all personal protective equipment as specified in prescribed training or required by a supervisor/PI, LSO, or the LSAC; and
- e) Immediately notify a supervisor/PI, LSO, or the LSAC of any hazards encountered.

#### **IV. DEFINITIONS**

**Accessible emission limit (AEL):** The maximum accessible emission level permitted within a particular laser hazard class.

**Authorized personnel:** Any individual approved to work with lasers by completion of required training(s).

**Aversion response:** An involuntary movement of either the head and/or eye to avoid exposure to a visible laser beam.

**Blink reflex:** The involuntary closing and opening of the eye(s) because of external stimulation.

**Collecting optics:** Lenses or optical instruments that use magnification to increase the power of a laser beam.

**Continuous wave (CW):** A laser beam with an output greater than 0.25 seconds.

**Deputy Laser Safety Officer (DLSO):** One who assists the LSO in the performance of his/her duties to monitor and enforce the control of laser hazards and effect the knowledgeable evaluation and control of laser hazards. The LSO can delegate authority to the DLSO.

**Diffuse reflection:** The reflection of a laser beam in many directions by a surface.

**Divergence:** The splitting of a laser beam so that the beam diameter increases with distance travel.

**Embedded laser:** A laser of a specific class that is reduced to a lower class due to the mechanisms and devices (engineering controls) that remove the potential for contact.

**Enclosed laser:** A laser that is contained within a protective housing itself or of the laser or laser system in which it is incorporated.

**Fail-safe interlock:** An engineering control where the failure of a single mechanical or electrical component of the interlock will cause the system to go into, or remain in, a safe mode.

**Infrared:** In this standard, the region of the electromagnetic spectrum between the long-wavelength extreme of the visible spectrum (about 0.7 m) and the shortest microwaves (about 1 mm).

**Intra-beam viewing:** The viewing condition whereby the eye is exposed to all or part of a laser beam.

**Laser Controlled Area (LCA):** A laser-use area where the occupancy and activity of those within is controlled and supervised. Walls, barriers, or other means may define this area. Within this area, potentially hazardous beam exposure is possible.

**Laser Safety Advisory Committee (LSAC):** A group of individual members of the NIH community who have an inherent interest in laser safety due to their professional role, such as using lasers in research, laboratory management, and/or safety responsibility. The group shall be composed of members from all NIH ICs operating lasers and will work together with the LSO and DLSO to shape and execute the LSP.

**Laser Safety Officer (LSO):** One who has the authority and responsibility to monitor and enforce the control of laser hazards and effect the knowledgeable evaluation and control of laser hazards.

**Laser Safety Site Contact (LSSC):** The LSSC is also referred to as the Laser Safety Specialist (LSS). A DLSO and/or a LSSC/LSS may be designated and approved by the LSO for each area where lasers are being used in multiple sites in a health care organization or facility. The LSSC/LSS oversees the safe laser use in specific areas where a laser is used and for which the LSSC/LSS is responsible.

**Maximum permissible exposure (MPE):** The level of laser radiation to which an unprotected person may be exposed without adverse biological changes in the eye or skin.

#### **Medical Lasers:**

Per the FDA's definition, medical lasers are medical devices that use precisely focused light sources to treat or remove tissues. At NIH, laser application occurs in Ocular treatment, Ocular surgery, tumor ablation, and gum disease treatment. As such, the NIH LSP provides the *ANSI Z136.3-2018* guidelines to those clinical settings. Responsible parties for guidelines

implementation are the NIH LSO and a Laser Safety Site Contact (LSSC) or Laser Safety Representative (LSR) for each site working with medical lasers.

**Nominal hazard zone (NHZ):** The space within which the level of the direct, reflected, or scattered radiation may exceed the applicable MPE. Exposure levels beyond the boundary of the NHZ are below the appropriate MPE.

**Non-beam hazard:** A class of hazards that result from factors other than direct human exposure to a laser beam.

**Optically aided viewing:** Viewing with a telescopic (binocular) or magnifying optic.

**Protective housing:** An enclosure that surrounds the laser or laser system and prevents access to laser radiation above the applicable MPE. The aperture through which the useful beam is emitted is not part of the protective housing. Protective housing limits access to other associated radiant energy emissions and to electrical hazards associated with components and terminals and may enclose associated optics and a workstation.

**Pulsed laser:** A laser that delivers its energy in the form of a single pulse or a train of pulses. In this standard, the duration of a pulse is less than 0.25 s.

**Q-switch** is a technique by which a laser can be made to produce a pulsed output beam. The technique allows the production of light pulses with extremely high (gigawatt) peak power, much higher than would be produced by the same laser if it were operating in a continuous wave (constant output) mode.

**Q-switched laser:** A laser that emits short (~10-250 ns), high-power pulses by means of a Q-switch.

**Safety latch:** A device intended to provide a measure of safety that must physically be removed to allow exposure to a hazard.

**Specular reflection:** A mirror-like reflection.

**Thermal effect:** Temperature elevation caused by exposure to a laser beam.

**Threshold limit (TL):** The term is applied to laser protective eyewear filters, protective windows, and barriers. The TL is an expression of the “resistance factor” for beam penetration of a laser protective device. This is generally related to the Threshold Limit (TL) of the protective device, expressed in  $W \cdot cm^{-2}$  or  $J \cdot cm^{-2}$ . It is the maximum average irradiance or radiant exposure at a given beam diameter for which a laser protective device provides adequate beam resistance. Thus, laser exposures delivered on the protective device at or below the TL will limit beam penetration to levels at or below the applicable MPE.

**Ultraviolet radiation:** In this standard, electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths between 180 and 400 nm (shorter than those of visible radiation).

**Wavelength:** The distance in the line of advance of a sinusoidal wave from any one point to the next point of corresponding phase (e.g., the distance from one peak to the next).

## V. PROGRAM

### Laser Safety Program

The NIH LSP is administered by the Division of Safety (DS) through the LSO and DLSO, in collaboration with the LSAC.

The LSP was developed to conform to *ANSI Z136.1 – 2014, the American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers*, as well as *ANSI Z136.8 – 2012, the American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers in Research, Development, or Testing*. The LSP is supplemented with guidelines from other sources and is structured to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations (see references in section VI).

The control measures outlined herein shall not serve to restrict or limit in any way the use of laser radiation of any type which may be intentionally administered to an individual for diagnostic, therapeutic, or medical research purposes by or under the direction of qualified professionals engaged in health care. However, those administering and assisting in the administering of the laser radiation, as well as the patient, where applicable, shall be protected by the control measures as outlined herein and, as applicable, by the requirements as specified in *ANSI Z136.3 – 2018, the American National Standard for Laser Safety in Health Care*.

The LSP is also issued as NIH Policy Manual chapter 3036 – NIH Laser Safety Program. The manual chapter can be viewed online at <https://policymanual.nih.gov/3036>.

### Laser Classification

#### Class 1

1. Understood to be a non-hazardous source during usage intended by the manufacturer.
2. Not intended to be monitored by this LSP:
  - a. No surveillance or audits; and
  - b. No control measures for usage.

#### Class 1M

1. A Class 1 system that may become hazardous if viewed with an optical instrument.
2. Not intended to be monitored by this LSP:
  - a. No surveillance or audits; and
  - b. Control measures – ensure no optically aided viewing.

#### Class 2

1. A laser with less than or equal to 1 milliwatt.
2. A laser within the visual spectrum (400 nanometers – 700 nanometers).
3. Not intended to be monitored by this LSP:
  - a. No surveillance or audits; and
  - b. Control measures – understood that the natural aversion response is sufficient to protect the eyes from damage.

### **Class 2M**

1. A Class 2 system that may become hazardous if viewed with an optical instrument.
2. Not intended to be monitored by this LSP:
  - a. No surveillance or audits; and
  - b. Control measures – ensure no optically aided viewing.

### **Class 3R**

1. A laser with less than 5 milliwatts.
2. May be dangerous from both direct viewing and specular reflections if natural aversion responses are not functioning properly.
3. Not intended to be monitored by this LSP:
  - a. No surveillance or audits; and
  - b. Control measures – ensure no optically aided viewing, avoid direct viewing of the beam or its specular reflection, and avoid unattended operation where the beam is directed into a location where it can be directly viewed by the public or personnel uninformed about the hazards.

### **Class 3B**

1. A laser with less than or equal to 0.5 watts.
2. May be dangerous from both direct viewing and specular reflections.
3. Not a fire hazard.
4. **Intended** to be monitored by this LSP:
  - a. Minimum of an annual survey for compliance with the LSP; and
  - b. Control measures – See section **V: Laser Hazard Control Measures** for more detailed information regarding specific control measures.

### **Class 4**

1. A laser with power that exceeds Class 3B.
2. Hazardous to both eyes and skin when the beam makes direct contact or from specular reflection; may pose a hazard from diffuse reflection.
3. May be a fire hazard.
4. **Intended** to be monitored by this LSP:
  - a. Minimum of an annual survey for compliance with the LSP; and
  - b. Control measures – See section **V: Laser Hazard Control Measures** for more detailed information regarding specific control measures.

## Laser Acquisition and Transfer

It is the sole responsibility of the PI to document and report to the LSO the purchase of a Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system. The PI may choose to delegate this function; however, the ultimate responsibility for the success or failure of the reporting remains with the PI. PIs (or their designee) can register new lasers online at <https://go.usa.gov/xReGv> (accessible to users connected to the NIH network).

## Laser Hazard Control Measures

Controls for Class 3B and Class 4 Lasers:

1. **Posting** – At a minimum, the entryway(s) of a laser safety area shall be posted for the class of laser, laser power, and laser wavelength(s). Additionally, it may be necessary to post inside the laser safety area to further define the hazard. For example, in shared space, non-laser users might need further warning signage of the hazard.
2. **Authorization** – Only individuals who have been trained by a designated official may utilize Class 3B and Class 4 lasers. No other individuals have the means to utilize the lasers.
3. **Beam trajectory and control** – The laser may only be utilized after the beam manner is well characterized and understood. The beam should be controlled to not be at either standing or sitting heights. Additionally, an appropriate beam stop shall be utilized to terminate the beam.
4. **Non-beam hazards** – All non-laser materials that have the potential to come into contact with the laser beam shall be analyzed to determine if any hazards are created upon contact over a period of time. When no written information is available to describe conditions created by contact, the responsible party should assume a hazardous product and ensure a proper means to eliminate the hazard. The most common means of controlling non-beam hazards is the use of local exhaust ventilation, essentially a mechanical means of purging an atmosphere through the use of controlled, directional air flow. Additional non-beam hazards are described in the next section.
5. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – All Class 3B and Class 4 laser usage areas shall have a written document providing the required PPE to be used while working with the laser. The most common PPE for use with lasers is protective eyewear. Eyewear must be appropriate to the laser used. All PPE shall be inspected before use for conditions that would negate the effectiveness of the protective

device. Laser safety eyewear should be properly stored to avoid damage, such as tearing or delamination of protective films.

6. **Containment** – All Class 3B and Class 4 laser(s) and laser system(s) should utilize a means of containment that fully encloses the beam path and any potential reflections of the beam from surfaces. Building materials utilized in a laser area(s) should be analyzed for reflective potential, and when possible, altered to decrease reflectance to as low a level as achievable. Windows to spaces outside of the laser area should be removed or covered to block transmission of the laser. Engineering controls, like laser activation entry lights and key switches, should be used at all times to ensure effective containment and control.
7. **Rapid Egress and Emergency Access** – All Class 4 laser area(s) shall have a controlled means of rapid egress and admittance for emergency conditions.
8. **Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)** – A standard operating procedure document shall be established for each laser laboratory and be made available to personnel before entry into an LCA (see Appendix B). Submit SOPs to the LSO for review.
9. **Maintenance and Service of laser equipment-** All Class 3B and 4 lasers, regardless of their set-up, should have control measures in place during the maintenance and/or servicing of the equipment. Appropriate signage (e.g., laser warning and notice for repair signs) must be posted at entryway(s) of the laser location. Additionally, laser personnel and workers in the surroundings of the laser should be informed of the maintenance in progress. If personnel must enter the laser location during its service, appropriate laser safety eyewear must be worn.

### **Non-Beam Hazards & Control Measures**

- A. **Electrical Hazards** – Many incidents and accidents related to laser(s) and laser system(s) stem not from the laser beam, but from user interaction with electrical components required for the laser to function. Most Class 3B and Class 4 lasers utilize high voltages and large capacitors, which have a high potential for electrical accidents. Only highly trained users should be authorized by the PIs to complete work involving electrical components. Any work involving electrical components shall comply with the NIH Lockout/Tagout procedures and guidelines.
- B. **Laser Dyes** – Dyes used as lasing media are often classified as toxic, carcinogenic, and/or flammable. These chemicals shall be handled appropriately, and safety data sheets (SDSs) for each shall be on file within the laser use area.
- C. **Laser Generated Air Contaminants (LGAC)** – Contact between a laser beam and a material can cause specific, yet sometimes unknown contaminants to be released into the atmosphere of the laser use area. Periodically, this release of air contaminants may occur without noticeable signs, such as the smoking of the material contacted.

Proper room ventilation or local exhaust ventilation is critical in any laser use area and should be evaluated before the installation of a Class 3B or Class 4 laser. The use of respiratory protection is not an accepted means of controlling the generated airborne hazard.

- D. **UV and Visible-Radiation and Plasma Emissions** – Evaluations for the discharge of radiation, both visible and UV, and plasma formation shall be completed before the use of a Class 3B or Class 4 laser. Identification of any of these conditions requires a review of the PPE used for skin protection to ensure adequate safety coverage. Additionally, laser and laser system components shall be periodically surveyed for damage from these conditions.

### **Laser Safety Training**

All supervisors and users shall complete the NIH Laser Safety training before using a Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system. Completion of an alternate training class shall be submitted to the LSAC for approval before laser usage may occur. Retraining is required biennially, after an incident or accident, and as required by the PI, LSO, DLSO, or LSAC.

As recommended, personnel working near, with, or supervising the use of Class 3B or Class 4 lasers at NIH can choose to complete laser safety training. It is recommended to complete the training before initial use and every two years thereafter, per [NIH Policy Manual Chapter 3036 - NIH Laser Safety Program](#). Quiz records will serve as proof of completed training and will be maintained by the NIH Division of Safety (DS). For appropriate signage, please visit the [laser safety webpage](#). If you need assistance in verifying the training status of your team, please share their names with the LSO, and access the training below:

1. View the [NIH Laser Safety Training](#)
2. Complete the [NIH Laser Safety Training Quiz](#)

### **Laser Safety Survey**

A laser safety survey is completed annually for all Class 3B and Class 4 lasers and laser systems. Safety surveys can be completed by the LSO, an appropriately trained Occupational Safety and Health Specialist, or a safety survey team involving personnel from the LSAC and the laser use area. The laser safety survey form is attached as Appendix A. The laser safety self-reporting form, attached as Appendix C, is an alternate survey method that can be used periodically instead of the survey form. Deficiencies found will require a response by the PI or designee concerning modifications to make to resolve the issue. No usage of the laser(s) or laser system(s) should occur before the modifications are made unless the LSAC grants a written waiver to the PI.

### **Medical Surveillance and Laser Accidents**

Individuals who believe that they require a medical evaluation concerning their use of laser(s) or laser system(s) shall request their respective supervisor. All requests will be conducted by

Occupational Medical Services (OMS). At this time, standard annual medical evaluations are not conducted for NIH laser users.

In the event of any accidents or incidents involving a Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system, the user shall immediately notify their supervisor. The user shall undergo an immediate evaluation by OMS located on the sixth floor of building 10, Room 6C306. The phone number for OMS is (301) 496-4411.

### **Specific Laser Equipment Guidelines**

***Embedded lasers:*** pieces of equipment that may contain “embedded” lasers are

- Confocal
- TIRF microscopes
- Two-photon microscopes
- Cytometers
- Mass Spectrometers
- Laser Cutters

These systems also have interlocks to prevent accidents due to beam exposure. If interlocks are bypassed, exposure or injury may occur. Additionally, once the enclosure is removed, the risk of injury becomes higher. At that point, it is important to remember to treat these systems as open beam lasers equipment. It is required to restrict access to the laser location during the maintenance and/or servicing of such laser equipment. The NIH LSP maintains records of these systems if they contain a Class 3B or 4 power. However, signage, PPE, and training requirements may vary based on laser safeguards.

## **VI. REFERENCES**

ANSI Z136.1-2014, *American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers*

ANSI Z136.3-2011, *Safe Use of Lasers in Health Care Facilities*

29 CFR 1910.132, *Personal protective equipment*

29 CFR 1910.133(a), *Eye and face protection*

STD 01-05-001, (*OSHA*) *Guidelines for Laser Safety and Hazard Assessment*

21 CFR 1040.10, *Laser Products*

21 CFR 1040.11, *Specific-purpose laser product*

HHS Publication FDA 86-8260, *Compliance Guide for Laser Products*

## **VII. APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Laser Safety Survey Form

Appendix B: Laser Safety General SOP

Appendix C: Laser Safety Signages



## NIH LASER SAFETY PROGRAM: APPENDIX A

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION										
PI				Lab Manager						
IC				Campus/Bldg/Room						
SOP(s) Written?	YES	NO		SOPs Available?	YES	NO				
LASER INFORMATION										
Manufacturer				Model						
Serial #				NIH Asset Tag #						
Medical Laser?	YES	NO	Hazard Class	1	1M	2	2M	3R	3B	4
Notes:										
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS										
Type				Wavelength(s) (nm)						
Power(s)				Pulsed	Energy (J):	Length (s):	Rate (Hz):			
Equipment Grounded?				YES	NO					
Alignment Done In-House?				YES	NO					
If Yes, Additional Safety Procedures Established?				YES	NO					
If Yes, Describe										
Notes:										
ENGINEERING AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS										
Warning Sign Visible?	YES	NO		Warning System Type(s)	Audible	Light	Verbal			
Key Control? (On/Off Switch)	YES	NO	(Required for Class 4)	Protective Housing?	YES	NO				
Complete Enclosure?	YES	NO		Barriers, Curtains, Beam Stops, Etc.?	YES	NO				
Notes:										
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR										
Manufacturer(s)				Model(s)						
OD @ $\lambda$										
CERTIFICATION										
Follow-Up Required?	YES	NO		Surveyor						
Signature				Date						



## NIH LASER SAFETY PROGRAM APPENDIX B: GENERAL SOP

**REMINDERS:**

- Lasers shall only be operated by authorized personnel who have completed training; and
- Laser users must periodically read and always follow the SOP.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION			
PI		Lab Manager	
IC		Campus/Bldg/Room	
Phone #		DOHS #s	
LASER USE AND PROCEDURES			
Laser Use	Medical Research	Type of Research	
Length of Use	Ongoing Limited	Specify Limited Use	
List Step-By-Step Procedures for Laser(s) System(s) Use			
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS			
Description	Individual Laser	Commercially Embedded Laser System	Custom-Built Laser System
Beam Characteristics	Fully Enclosed	Partially Enclosed	Open Beam Located Between Sitting & Standing Height
Reason for Incomplete Enclosure			
Alignment Done In-House?	YES	NO	
If Yes, Additional Safety Procedures Established?	YES	NO	
If Yes, Describe			



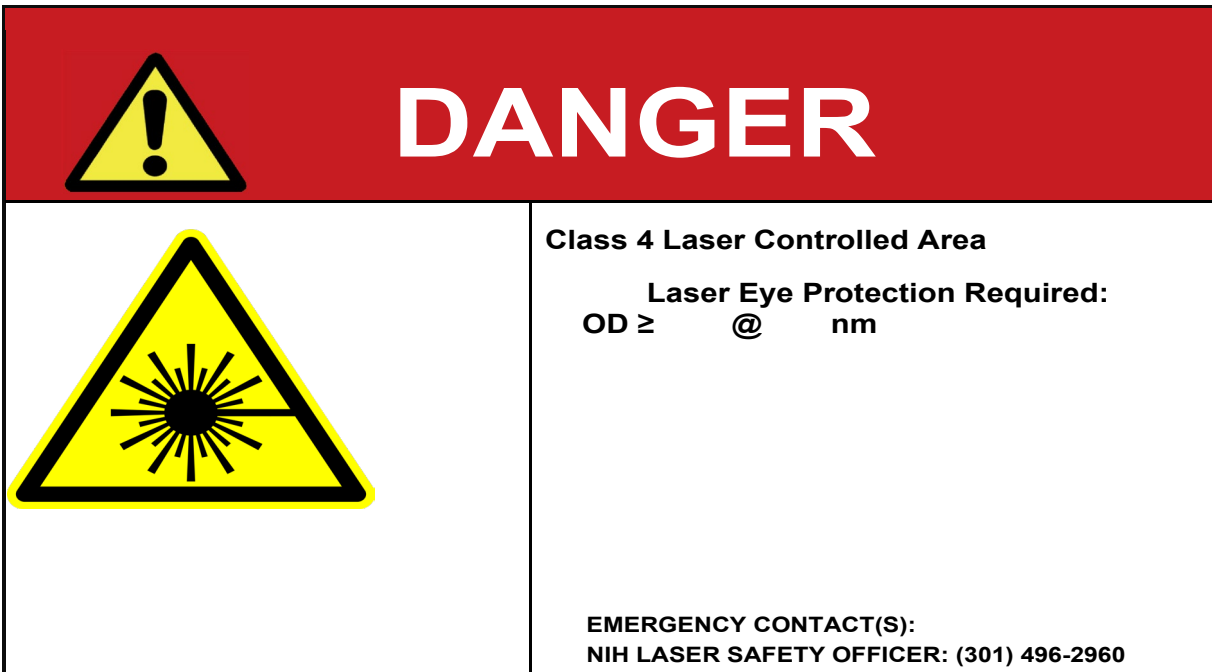
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<b>ENGINEERING AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS</b>			
Windows Covered	YES	NO	N/A
Only Anodized, Dull, Non-Reflective or Matte Finished Instruments Used Near Laser Site	YES	NO	N/A
Watches and Reflective Jewelry Removed or Covered Prior to Operating the Laser	YES	NO	N/A
Grounded	YES	NO	N/A
Rapid Egress Paths Established	YES	NO	N/A
Restricted Room Access	YES	NO	N/A
Barriers, Curtains, Beam Stops, Etc.	YES	NO	N/A
Key Control (On/Off Switch) (Required for Class 4)	YES	NO	N/A
Laser Key Returned to Secure Storage When the Laser Is Not in Use	YES	NO	N/A
Fail-Safe Interlock(s)	YES	NO	N/A
Safety Latch(es)	YES	NO	N/A
Fire Extinguisher Available	YES	NO	N/A
Warning Signs Posted on All Laser Room Entrance Doors	YES	NO	N/A
Emergency Contact Information Included on Door Warning Signs	YES	NO	N/A
Warning System Type(s)	Audible	Visible (Illuminated)	Verbal
<b>PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR</b>			
Clean and Without Scratches	YES	NO	N/A
Stored in Case(s) When Not in Use	YES	NO	N/A



Optical Density and Wavelength Range Markings Visible				YES	NO	N/A
Optical Density Needs Verified (Online Calculator: <a href="https://www.lia.org/evaluator/od.php">https://www.lia.org/evaluator/od.php</a> )				YES	NO	N/A
Number of Pairs	Location Kept (Room)	Manufacturer	Model	OD @ Wavelength(s)		
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>						
Responsible Person						
Signature			Date			

## APPENDIX C: LASER SAFETY SIGNAGES



**REQUIRED:** This sign is required to mark the entryway(s) of areas containing Class 4 lasers with high (multi-kilowatt) output power or pulse energies with exposed beams.



# WARNING



Class 4 Laser Controlled Area

Laser Eye Protection Required:

OD  $\geq$  @ nm

EMERGENCY CONTACT(S):

NIH LASER SAFETY OFFICER: (301) 496-2960

**REQUIRED:** This sign is required to mark the entryway(s) of areas containing Class 3B or Class 4 lasers (choose the highest-class laser present in the area).



# WARNING



**Class 3B Laser Controlled Area**

**Laser Eye Protection Required:**

OD  $\geq$       @      nm

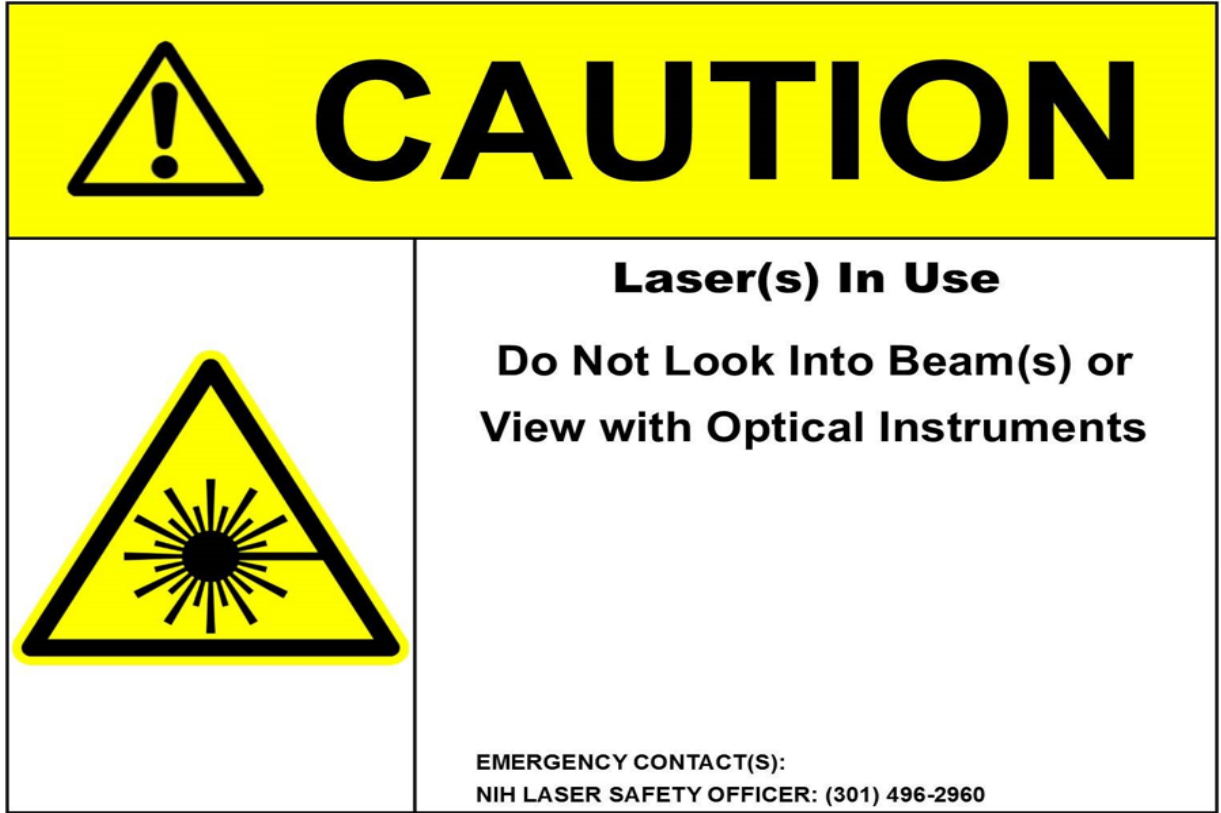
**EMERGENCY CONTACT(S):**

**NIH LASER SAFETY OFFICER: (301) 496-2960**

**REQUIRED:** This sign is required to mark the entryway(s) of areas containing Class 3B or Class 4 lasers (choose the highest-class laser present in the area).



**OPTIONAL:** This sign is optional to mark the entryway(s) of areas containing Class 3B or Class 4 lasers (choose the highest-class laser present in the area). This sign is specific to fully enclosed laser beam equipment (e.g.: some confocal microscopes) and does not require laser safety eye protection.



**OPTIONAL:** This sign is optional for use to mark the entryway(s) of areas containing Class 2, Class 2M, or Class 3R lasers.

# NOTICE



**LASER REPAIR IN PROGRESS**

**DO NOT ENTER**

**EMERGENCY CONTACT(S):**

**NIH LASER SAFETY OFFICER: (301) 496-2960**

**REQUIRED DURING MAINTENANCE:** This sign is required to mark the entryway(s) of areas that are *temporarily* for the repair or servicing of a Class 3B or 4 laser equipment.