

Laser Safety Guidelines

Version 1.0

1. Don't look directly into the laser.
2. Keep the laser in one plane i.e. the x-axis; the use of laser tables is highly recommended; beams should terminate at the end of the workspace.
3. Remove all jewelry and watches during operation to prevent stray reflections.
4. Use kill switches where possible to deactivate the laser when not in use; keep switches in lock boxes with restricted access.
5. Keep lasers in restricted areas; use warning lights kept at eye level to notify outside personnel when laser is in operation (similar to an "on air" light at a radio station).
6. If possible, have an s-bend walkway to enter into the laser area to avoid unwanted reflections.
7. Use proper warning signs to designate a laser-controlled area; signs should signify laser type, required specific eyewear, and emergency contact info for the Laser Safety Officer (LSO).
8. Training should consist of formal training and on-the-job training; standard operating procedures for laser operations should be used; self-audits should be conducted to ensure procedures are followed.
9. Specific wavelengths will require specific eyewear.
10. Personnel should use lockout/tagout procedures when working on lasers.

For general questions you can contact the Laser Institute of America at lia@lia.org. These rules are loosely based off of ANSI Z136.8-2021 Safe Use of Lasers in Research, Development, or Testing.