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Health and Safety

Laser Safety Signage

SAF-GUI-LAS-SIGNAGE

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Laser Safety Signage

1. Introduction

In line with the Safety Signs and Signals Regulations 1996, laser safety signage is required where there is a significant risk to the health and safety of staff, students or others.

The signage must be clean, clear, legible and positioned appropriately for the location.

It must identify either:

- a prohibited action, e.g. no unauthorised access bullets
- a mandated requirement, e.g. certain personal protective equipment must be worn
- warn of a hazard, e.g. laser beam

The standard and easily-recognisable symbol to warn of a laser hazard is the “starburst.”



It is best to use signage that incorporates both the symbol and relevant wording, see below.

Signage standards are taken either from BS EN 60825-1 or IEC 60825-1

2. Signage for designated laser areas / rooms / cubicles

It is expected that any designated laser areas with Class 3B and 4 lasers have the following signage on all entry points.

Where laser “rooms” or cubicles have been set up within one large lab, there should be warning signage on each room or cubicle entry point.

Adopt one main sign for warning of the laser hazard on each entry point, avoid multiple signs that may lead to confusion.



This can be combined with





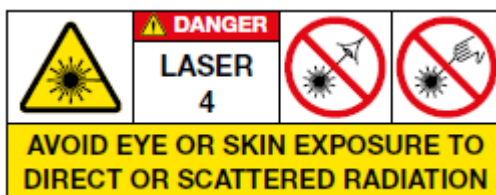
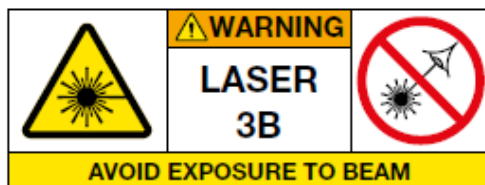
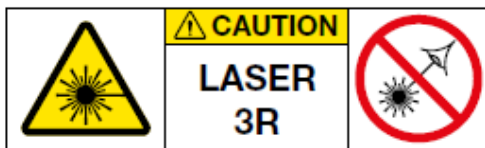
Post this type of sign adjacent to red lights on cubicles

LASER ON
when red light
illuminated

3. Signage for compartments (boxes, access panels) containing hazardous laser beams

Laser beams may be enclosed in compartments or boxes that are only even accessed with a special tool and this is generally for servicing and maintenance by a third party. Alternatively, laser beams may be enclosed with interlocked compartments or boxes that will be accessed for specific tasks such as alignment.

For either case, the compartment or box should be labelled close to the point at which it would be accessed.



4. Labels for laser equipment and apertures

Labels for Laser Equipment

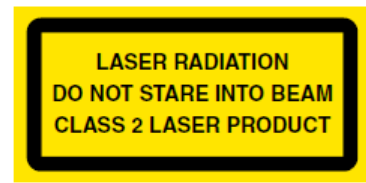
General labelling for all classes of a laser. Where an item of laser containing equipment is too small for the label to fit, place the label on the nearest available point, e.g. fold around the power cable so it is still legible.



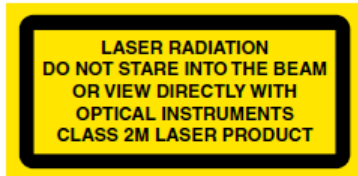
Class 1



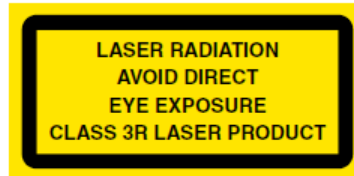
Class 1M label



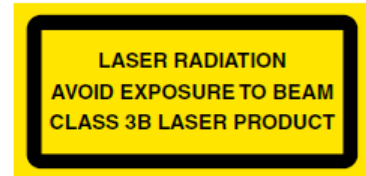
Class 2 label



Class 2M label



Class 3R label



Class 3B label



Class 4 label

Labels for Apertures

These types of labels are available for marking apertures but it is not essential to apply these unless felt necessary to highlight to workers.



5. Procurement of laser safety signage

It is the expectation that each business unit, requiring laser safety signage, procures signage that is sufficient for the needs of each laser lab/area from a business unit or individual project budget as appropriate. Safety signage is not provided by the university centrally.

All safety signage can be procured via university-approved suppliers or it is acceptable to colour-print signage in-house as long as it is of an appropriate size and is maintained in a legible and undamaged condition.