

American National Standard

ANSI Z136.1—2007

American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers



**Laser Institute
of America**

Laser Applications and Safety



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**American National Standard
for Safe Use of Lasers**

**Secretariat
Laser Institute of America**

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**American
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Standard**

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Foreword (This introduction is not a normative part of ANSI Z136.1-2007, American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers.)

In 1968, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved the initiation of the Safe Use of Lasers Standards Project under the sponsorship of the Telephone Group.

Prior to 1985, Z136 standards were developed by ANSI Committee Z136 and submitted for approval and issuance as ANSI Z136 standards. Since 1985, Z136 standards are developed by the ANSI Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) Z136. A copy of the procedures for development of these standards can be obtained from the secretariat, the Laser Institute of America, 13501 Ingenuity Drive, Suite 128, Orlando, FL 32826 or viewed at www.z136.org.

The present scope of ASC Z136 covers protection against hazards associated with the use of lasers, laser diodes and certain diodes used in optical fiber communication systems.

ASC Z136 is responsible for the development and maintenance of this standard. In addition to the consensus body, ASC Z136 is composed of standards subcommittees (SSC) and technical subcommittees (TSC) involved in Z136 standards development and an editorial working group. At the time of this printing, the following standards and technical subcommittees were active:

SSC-1	Safe Use of Lasers (parent document)
SSC-2	Safe Use of Lasers and LEDs in Telecommunications Applications
SSC-3	Safe Use of Lasers in Health Care Facilities
SSC-4	Measurements and Instrumentation
SSC-5	Safe Use of Lasers in Educational Institutions
SSC-6	Safe Use of Lasers Outdoors
SSC-7	Eyewear and Protective Barriers
SSC-8	Safe Use of Lasers in Research, Development and Testing
SSC-9	Safe Use of Lasers in Manufacturing Environments
SSC-10	Safe Use of Lasers in Entertainment, Displays and Exhibitions
TSC-1	Biological Effects and Medical Surveillance
TSC-2	Hazard Evaluation and Classification
TSC-4	Control Measures and Training
TSC-5	Non-Beam Hazards
TSC-7	Analysis and Applications
EWG	Editorial Working Group

The six standards currently issued are:

ANSI Z136.1-2007, American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers (replaces ANSI Z136.1-2000)

ANSI Z136.2-1997, American National Standard for Safe Use of Optical Fiber Communication Systems Utilizing Laser Diode and LED Sources (replaces ANSI Z136.2-1989)

ANSI Z136.3-2005, American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers in Health Care Facilities (replaces ANSI Z136.3-1996)

ANSI Z136.4-2005, Recommended Practice for Laser Safety Measurements for Hazard Evaluation (first edition)

ANSI Z136.5-2000, American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers in Educational Institutions (first edition)

ANSI Z136.6-2005, American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers Outdoors (replaces ANSI Z136.6-2000)

This American National Standard provides guidance for the safe use of lasers and laser systems by defining control measures for each of four laser hazard classifications. Once a laser or laser system is properly classified, there should be no need to carry out tedious measurements or calculations to meet the provisions of this standard. However, technical information on measurements, calculations and biological effects is also provided within the standard and its appendixes.

It is expected that this standard will be periodically revised as new information and experience in the use of lasers are gained. Future revisions may have modified methodology, and use of the most current document is highly recommended.

While there is considerable compatibility among existing laser safety standards, some requirements differ among state, federal, and international standards. These differences may have an effect on the particulars of the applicable control measures.

Suggestions for improvements of the standard are welcome. They should be sent to ASC Z136 Secretariat, Laser Institute of America, 13501 Ingenuity Drive, Suite 128, Orlando, FL 32826.

This standard was processed and approved for submittal to ANSI by Accredited Standards Committee Z136 on the Safe Use of Lasers. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all members voted for its approval.

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Z136 standards and recommended practices are developed through a consensus standards development process approved by the American National Standards Institute. The process brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve consensus on laser safety related issues. As secretariat to ASC Z136, the Laser Institute of America (LIA) administers the process and provides financial and clerical support to the committee.

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American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers

1. General

1.1 Scope.

This standard provides recommendations for the safe use of lasers and laser systems that operate at wavelengths between 0.18 μm and 1 mm.

1.2 Application.

The objective of this standard is to provide reasonable and adequate guidance for the safe use of lasers and laser systems. A practical means for accomplishing this is first to (1) classify lasers and laser systems according to their relative hazards and then to (2) specify appropriate controls for each classification.

Other special application standards within the Z136 series may deviate from the requirements of this standard. Each deviation is valid only for applications within the scope of the standard in which it appears.

The basis of the hazard classification scheme in Section 3 of this standard is the ability of the laser beam to cause biological damage to the eye or skin during use. For example:

A Class 1 laser system is:

- Considered to be incapable of producing damaging radiation levels during operation, and
- Exempt from any control measures or other forms of surveillance.

Note: For the purposes of this standard, products which have been classified previously as Class IIa under the Federal Laser Product Performance Standard (FLPPS) should be treated the same as Class 1.

A Class 1M laser system is:

- Considered to be incapable of producing hazardous exposure conditions during normal operation unless the beam is viewed with an optical instrument such as an eye-loupe (diverging beam) or a telescope (collimated beam), and
- Exempt from any control measures other than to prevent potentially hazardous optically aided viewing; and is exempt from other forms of surveillance.

A Class 2 laser system:

- Emits in the visible portion of the spectrum (0.4 to 0.7 μm), and
- Eye protection is normally afforded by the aversion response.

A Class 2M laser system:

- Emits in the visible portion of the spectrum (0.4 to 0.7 μm), and

- Eye protection is normally afforded by the aversion response for unaided viewing.
- However, Class 2M is potentially hazardous if viewed with certain optical aids.

A Class 3 laser system (medium-power):

- May be hazardous under direct and specular reflection viewing conditions, but is normally not a diffuse reflection or fire hazard.

There are two subclasses:

- A Class 3R laser system is potentially hazardous under some direct and specular reflection viewing condition if the eye is appropriately focused and stable, but the probability of an actual injury is small. This laser will not pose either a fire hazard or diffuse-reflection hazard.
- A Class 3B laser system may be hazardous under direct and specular reflection viewing conditions, but is normally not a diffuse reflection or fire hazard.

Note: For lasers classified as Class IIIa see Appendix H for guidance.

A Class 4 laser system (high-power):

- Is a hazard to the eye or skin from the direct beam, and
- May pose a diffuse reflection or fire hazard
- May also produce laser generated air contaminants (LGAC) and hazardous plasma radiation (see Section 7).

Lasers or laser systems designated for a specific class by a manufacturer in accordance with the Federal Laser Product Performance Standard (FLLPS) (or latest revision thereof) or International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 60825-1 (or latest revision thereof) may be considered as fulfilling all classification requirements of this standard. In cases where the laser or laser system classification is not provided, or where the class level may change because of the addition or deletion of engineering control measures (see Section 4.3), the laser or laser system shall be classified by the Laser Safety Officer (LSO) in accordance with the descriptions given in Section 3, the methods described in Section 9, or both.

The recommended step-by-step procedure for using this standard is as follows:

- 1) Determine the appropriate class of the laser or laser system.
- 2) Comply with the measures specified for that class of laser or laser system, using Table 1 as a guide. This procedure will in most cases eliminate the need for measurement of laser radiation, quantitative analysis of hazard potential, or use of the Maximum Permissible Exposures (MPEs) as given in Section 8 and Tables 5a and 5b of this standard.

Table 1. Requirements by Laser Classification

Class	Procedural & Administrative Controls	Training	Medical Surveillance	LSO
1	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required
1M	Required	Application Dependent (2)	Application Dependent (2)	Application Dependent (2)
2	Not Required (1)	Not Required (1)	Not Required	Not Required
2M	Required	Application Dependent (2)	Application Dependent (2)	Application Dependent (2)
3R	Not Required (1)	Not Required (1)	Not Required	Not Required (1)
3B	Required	Required	Suggested	Required
4	Required	Required	Suggested	Required

Note: During maintenance and service the classification associated with the maximum level of accessible laser radiation shall be used to determine the applicable control measures.

- 1) *Not required except for conditions of intentional intrabeam exposure applications.*
- 2) *Certain uses of Class 1M or 2M lasers or laser systems that exceed Class 1 or Class 2 because they do not satisfy Measurement Condition 1 may require hazard evaluation and/or manufacturer's information (see Section 4.1.1.3).*

Sections 8 and 9 should be consulted for quantitative evaluation of the hazard associated with a given laser or laser system. To use the ocular MPEs for the retinal hazard region (provided in Tables 5a and 5b), determine whether the source is a point source or whether extended source viewing conditions apply (see Figures B1, B3, and B4 in Appendix B for illustrated viewing conditions).

For the purposes of this standard, except for short-distance viewing of small diameter or focused Class 3B lasers (see Section 3.3.3), only Class 4 lasers are capable of producing hazardous diffuse reflections; hence calculations for viewing diffuse reflections are normally only necessary for Class 4 lasers.

The laser hazard classification system is based entirely on the laser radiation emission. Non-beam hazards must be dealt with separately and are addressed in Section 7.

1.3 Laser Safety Programs.

1.3.1 General. Management (employer) has the fundamental responsibility for the assurance of the safe use of lasers owned and/or operated in facilities under its control. Management (employer) shall establish and maintain an adequate program for the control of laser hazards. Employer and/or facility safety programs and employee training programs shall be provided

for Class 3B or Class 4 lasers and laser systems. Employer and/or facility safety programs and employee training should be provided for laser systems containing embedded Class 3B and Class 4 lasers. Employer and/or facility safety programs and employee training programs are not required for Class 1 lasers and laser systems that do not contain embedded Class 3B and Class 4 lasers (see Section 3.1 and Table 1).

The following guidelines for laser safety programs contain requirements (designated by *shall*) and recommendations (designated by *should*). In the case of a recommendation it may be useful for the employer to review Section 3 of this standard and perform a hazard evaluation, with particular emphasis on the total foreseen risk based on consideration of the laser, laser system and application, as well as the environment in which it is used and the personnel using the laser. The evaluation would include considerations such as the likelihood of the use of viewing optics, and the intentional or unintentional misuse of a laser that, under normal conditions, would not be considered to be hazardous. In many situations the implementation of a recommendation may not be necessary. In other situations, it may be useful or prudent to implement the recommendation in order to assure the safe use of lasers for a specific application.

1.3.2 Laser Safety Program Provisions. The laser safety program established by the employer shall include provisions for the following:

- 1) Designation of an individual as the Laser Safety Officer (LSO) with the authority and responsibility to effect the knowledgeable evaluation and control of laser hazards, and the implementation of appropriate control measures, as well as to monitor and enforce compliance with required standards and regulations. The specific duties and responsibilities of the LSO are designated in normative Appendix A. (*Note: A normative appendix is an extension of the standard, and as such is an integral part of the standard.*) Throughout the body of this standard, it shall be understood that wherever duties or responsibilities of the LSO are specified, it will mean that the LSO either performs the stated task or assures that the task is performed by qualified individual(s).
- 2) Education of authorized personnel (LSOs, operators, service personnel and others) in the safe use of lasers and laser systems and as applicable, the assessment and control of laser hazards. This may be accomplished through training programs. Employers should consider the benefits of initiating awareness training for employees working with and around lasers and laser systems greater than Class 1. If training is warranted for embedded lasers it shall extend to those routinely around the systems, who will be present when maintenance requiring beam access or service occurs (see Section 5 and Appendix D).
- 3) Application of adequate protective measures for the control of laser hazards as required in Section 4.
- 4) Incident investigation, including reporting of alleged accidents to the LSO, and preparation of action plans for the prevention of future accidents following a known or suspected incident.
- 5) An appropriate medical examination and medical surveillance program in accordance with Section 6.

- 6) Formation of a Laser Safety Committee when the number, hazards, complexity and/or diversity of laser activities warrants. The structure and responsibilities for a Laser Safety Committee are presented in Appendix A.

1.3.3 Personnel Responsibilities. Employees who work with lasers or laser systems and their supervisors have responsibilities for establishing their safe use. Suggested responsibilities for these individuals are provided in Appendix A.

Individuals involved in purchasing lasers and laser systems should contact the LSO to aid in the implementation of the laser safety program. Suggested actions are provided in Appendix A, Section A3.

Individuals fabricating, altering or installing a Class 3B or 4 laser or laser system should contact the LSO to aid in the implementation of the laser safety program.

2. Definitions

The definitions of the terms listed below are based on a pragmatic rather than a basic approach. Therefore, the terms defined are limited to those actually used in this standard and its appendixes and are in no way intended to constitute a dictionary of terms used in the laser field as a whole.

absorption. Transformation of radiant energy to a different form of energy by interaction with matter.

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

accessible optical radiation. Optical radiation to which the human eye or skin may be exposed for the condition (operation, maintenance, or service) specified.

alpha max. The angular subtense of an extended source beyond which additional subtense does not contribute to the hazard and need not be considered. This value is 100 mrad for retinal thermal effects and 110 mrad for the retinal photochemical effects. Symbol: α_{\max}

alpha min. The angular subtense of a source below which the source can be effectively considered as a point source. The value of alpha min is 1.5 mrad. Symbol: α_{\min}

aperture. An opening, window, or lens through which optical radiation can pass.

apparent visual angle. The angular subtense (α) of the source as calculated from source size and distance from the eye. It is not the beam divergence of the source (see Section 8.1 and Figure B4 for criteria).

attenuation. The decrease in the radiant flux as it passes through an absorbing or scattering medium.

authorized personnel. Individuals approved by management to operate, maintain, service, or install laser equipment.

average power. The total energy in an exposure or emission divided by the duration of the exposure or emission.

aversion response. Closure of the eyelid, eye movement, pupillary constriction, or movement of the head to avoid an exposure to a noxious or bright light stimulant. In this standard, the aversion response to an exposure from a bright, visible, laser source is assumed to limit the exposure of a specific retinal area to 0.25 s or less.

beam. A collection of light/photonic rays characterized by direction, diameter (or dimensions), and divergence (or convergence).

beam diameter. The distance between diametrically opposed points in that cross-section of a beam where the power per unit area is $1/e$ (0.368) times that of the peak power per unit area.

blink reflex. The blink reflex is the involuntary closure of the eyes as a result of stimulation by an external event such as an irritation of the cornea or conjunctiva, a bright flash, the rapid approach of an object, an auditory stimulus or with facial movements. In this standard the ocular aversion response for a bright flash of light is assumed to limit the exposure of a specific retinal area to 0.25 s or less.

C_A. Correction factor which increases the MPE in the near infrared (IR-A) spectral band (0.7-1.4 μm) based upon reduced absorption properties of melanin pigment granules found in the skin and in the retinal pigment epithelium.

C_B. Correction factor which increases the MPE in the red end of the visible spectrum (0.45-0.60 μm), because of greatly reduced photochemical hazards.

C_C. Correction factor which increases the MPE for ocular exposure because of pre-retinal absorption of radiant energy in the spectral region between 1.15 and 1.40 μm .

C_E. Correction factor used for calculating the extended source MPE for the eye from the point source MPE, when the laser source subtends a visual angle exceeding α_{min} .

C_P. Correction factor which reduces the MPE for repetitive-pulse exposure of the eye.

carcinogen. An agent potentially capable of causing cancer.

coagulation. The process of congealing by an increase in viscosity characterized by a condensation of material from a liquid to a gelatinous or solid state.

coherent. A beam of light characterized by a fixed phase relationship (spatial coherence) or single wavelength, i.e., monochromatic (temporal coherence).

collateral radiation. Any electromagnetic radiation, except laser radiation, emitted by a laser or laser system which is physically necessary for its operation.

collecting optics. Lenses or optical instruments having magnification and thereby producing an increase in energy or power density. Such devices may include telescopes, binoculars, microscopes, or loupes.

collimated beam. Effectively, a “parallel” beam of light with very low divergence or convergence.

Condition 1. Pertains to optically aided viewing of collimated beams through telescopes or binoculars.

Condition 2. Pertains to optically aided viewing of sources with highly divergent beams through magnifiers or eye loupes or unaided viewing with or without strong accommodation (Condition 2 has slightly different measurement conditions in IEC 60825-1).

continuous wave (CW). In this standard, a laser operating with a continuous output for a period ≥ 0.25 s is regarded as a CW laser.

controlled area (laser). An area where the occupancy and activity of those within is subject to control and supervision for the purpose of protection from laser radiation hazards.

cornea. The transparent outer layer of the human eye which covers the iris and the crystalline lens. The cornea is the main refracting element of the eye.

critical frequency. The pulse repetition frequency above which the laser output is considered continuous wave (CW). For example, for a short unintentional exposure (0.25 s to 10 s) to nanosecond (or longer) pulses, the critical frequency is 55 kHz for wavelengths between 0.40 and 1.05 μm , and 20 kHz for wavelengths between 1.05 and 1.40 μm .

diffuse reflection. Change of the spatial distribution of a beam of radiation when it is reflected in many directions by a surface or by a medium.

divergence. In this standard, the divergence is the increase in the diameter of the laser beam with distance from the exit aperture, based on the full angle at the point where the irradiance (or radiant exposure for pulsed lasers) is $1/e$ times the maximum value. Symbol: ϕ

effective energy. Energy, in joules, through the applicable measurement aperture. Symbol: Q_{eff}

effective power. Power, in watts, through the applicable measurement aperture. Symbol: Φ_{eff}

electromagnetic radiation. The flow of energy consisting of orthogonally vibrating electric and magnetic fields lying transverse to the direction of propagation. Gamma rays, X-ray, ultraviolet, visible, infrared, and radio waves occupy various portions of the electromagnetic spectrum and differ only in frequency, wavelength, and photon energy.

embedded laser. An enclosed laser that has a higher classification than the laser system in which it is incorporated, where the system's lower classification is appropriate due to the engineering features limiting accessible emission.

enclosed laser. A laser that is contained within a protective housing of itself or of the laser or laser system in which it is incorporated. Opening or removing of the protective housing provides additional access to laser radiation above the applicable MPE than possible with the protective housing in place (an embedded laser is an example of one type of enclosed laser).

energy. The capacity for doing work. Energy content is commonly used to characterize the output from pulsed lasers, and is generally expressed in joules (J).

epithelium (of the cornea). The layer of cells forming the outer surface of the cornea.

erythema. For the purposes of the standard, redness of the skin due to exposure from laser radiation.

extended source. A source of optical radiation with an angular subtense at the cornea larger than α_{\min} . See *point source*.

eye-safe laser. A Class 1 laser product. Because of the frequent misuse of the term “eye-safe wavelength” to mean “retina-safe,” (e.g., at 1.5-1.6 μm) and *eye-safe laser* to refer to a laser emitting at wavelengths outside the retinal-hazard region, the term “eye-safe” can be a misnomer. Hence, the use of *eye-safe laser* is discouraged.

fail-safe interlock. An interlock 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.

field of view. The full solid angle from which a detector’s active area receives radiation.

focal length. The distance from the secondary nodal point of a lens to the secondary focal point. For a thin lens imaging a distant source, the focal length is the distance between the lens and the focal point.

focal point. The point toward which radiation converges or from which radiation diverges or appears to diverge.

half-power point. The time on either the leading or trailing edge of a laser pulse at which the power is one-half of its maximum value.

hertz (Hz). The unit which expresses the frequency of a periodic oscillation in cycles per second.

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

infrared radiation. Electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths which lie within the range 0.7 μm to 1 mm.

installation. Placement and connection of laser equipment at the appropriate site to enable intended operation.

integrated radiance. The integral of the radiance over the exposure duration, expressed in joules-per-centimeter-squared per-steradian ($\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$).

intrabeam viewing. The viewing condition whereby the eye is exposed to all or part of a laser beam.

iris. The circular pigmented structure which lies behind the cornea of the human eye. The iris is perforated by the pupil.

irradiance. Radiant power incident per unit area upon a surface, expressed in watts-per-centimeter-squared ($\text{W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$). Symbol: E

joule. A unit of energy. 1 joule = 1 N·m; 1 joule = 1 watt · second.

Lambertian surface. An ideal (diffuse) surface whose emitted or reflected radiance is independent of the viewing angle.

laser. A device that produces radiant energy predominantly by stimulated emission. Laser radiation may be highly coherent temporally, or spatially, or both. An acronym for **L**ight **A**mplification by **S**timulated **E**mission of **R**adiation.

laser barrier. A device used to block or attenuate incident direct or diffuse laser radiation. Laser barriers are frequently used during times of service to the laser system when it is desirable to establish a boundary for a controlled laser area.

laser classification. An indication of the beam hazard level of a laser or laser system during normal operation or the determination thereof. The hazard level of a laser or laser system is represented by a number or a numbered capital letter. The laser classifications are Class 1, Class 1M, Class 2, Class 2M, Class 3R, Class 3B and Class 4. In general, the potential beam hazard level increases in the same order.

laser diode. A laser employing a forward-biased semiconductor junction as the active medium.

laser personnel. Persons who routinely work around hazardous laser beams. This standard requires such persons to be protected by engineering controls, administrative procedures, or both.

laser pointer. A laser product that is usually hand held that emits a low-divergence visible beam and is intended for designating specific objects or images during discussions, lectures or presentations as well as for the aiming of firearms or other visual targeting practice. These products are normally Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3R.

laser safety officer (LSO). One who has authority and responsibility to monitor and enforce the control of laser hazards and effect the knowledgeable evaluation and control of laser hazards.

laser system. An assembly of electrical, mechanical, and optical components which includes a laser.

lesion. An abnormal change in the structure of an organ or part due to injury or disease.

limiting angular subtense. See *alpha min*.

limiting aperture diameter. The diameter of a circle over which irradiance or radiant exposure is averaged for purposes of hazard evaluation and classification. Symbol: D_f

limiting cone angle. The cone angle through which radiance or integrated radiance is averaged when photochemical effects are considered in hazard evaluation and classification. Symbol: γ

limiting exposure duration. An exposure duration which is specifically limited by the design or intended use(s). Symbol: T_{\max}

macula. The small uniquely pigmented specialized area of the retina of the eye, which, in normal individuals, is predominantly employed for acute central vision (i.e., area of best visual acuity).

magnified viewing. Viewing a small object through an optical system that increases the apparent object size. This type of optical system can make a diverging laser beam more hazardous (e.g., using a magnifying optic to view an optical fiber with a laser beam emitted).

maintenance. Performance of those adjustments or procedures (specified in the user information provided by the manufacturer and considered preventative, to maintain optimal performance of the laser system), which are to be carried out by the user to ensure the intended performance of the product. It does not include *operation* or *service* as defined in this section.

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.

measurement aperture. The aperture used for classification of a laser to determine the effective power or energy that is compared with the AEL for each laser hazard class.

meter. A unit of length in the international system of units; currently defined as the length of a path traversed in vacuum by light during a period of $1/299792458$ seconds. Typically, the meter is subdivided into the following units:

centimeter (cm)	=	10^{-2} m
millimeter (mm)	=	10^{-3} m
micrometer (μm)	=	10^{-6} m
nanometer (nm)	=	10^{-9} m

minimum viewing distance. The minimum distance at which the eye can produce a focused image of a diffuse source, usually assumed to be 10 cm.

monochromatic light. Having or consisting of one color or wavelength.

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.

nominal ocular hazard distance (NOHD). The distance along the axis of the unobstructed beam from a laser, fiber end, or connector to the human eye beyond which the irradiance or radiant exposure is not expected to exceed the applicable MPE.

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

normative appendix. Conforming to or based on norms of an authoritative standard; a principle of right action binding upon the members of a group and serving to guide, control, or regulate proper and acceptable behavior.

ocular fundus. The interior posterior surface of the eye (the retina), as seen upon ophthalmoscopic examination.

operation. The performance of the laser or laser system over the full range of its intended functions (normal operation). It does not include *maintenance* or *service* as defined in this section.

ophthalmoscope. An instrument for examining the interior of the eye.

optically aided viewing. Viewing with a telescopic (binocular) or magnifying optic. Under certain circumstances, viewing with an optical aid can increase the hazard from a laser beam (see *telescopic viewing* or *magnified viewing*).

optical density. The logarithm to the base ten of the reciprocal of the transmittance at a particular wavelength:

$$D_{\lambda} = \log_{10} (1/\tau_{\lambda})$$

where τ_{λ} is the transmittance at the wavelength of interest. Symbol: $D(\lambda)$, D_{λ} or OD

photochemical effect. A biological effect produced by a chemical action brought about by the absorption of photons by molecules that directly alter the molecule.

photosensitizers. Substances which increase the sensitivity of a material to exposure by optical radiation.

pigment epithelium (of the retina). The layer of cells which contain brown or black pigment granules next to and behind the rods and cones.

plasma radiation. Black-body radiation generated by luminescence of matter in a laser generated plume.

point source. For purposes of this standard, a source with an angular subtense at the cornea equal to or less than alpha-min (α_{\min}), i.e., ≤ 1.5 mrad.

point source viewing. The viewing condition whereby the angular subtense of the source, α , is equal to or less than the limiting angular subtense, α_{\min} .

power. The rate at which energy is emitted, transferred, or received. Unit: watts (W) (joules per second).

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. The 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.

pulse duration. The duration of a laser pulse, usually measured as the time interval between the half-power points on the leading and trailing edges of the pulse. Typical units:

microsecond (μs)	=	10^{-6} s
nanosecond (ns)	=	10^{-9} s
picosecond (ps)	=	10^{-12} s
femtosecond (fs)	=	10^{-15} s

Symbol: t

pulse-repetition frequency (PRF). The number of pulses occurring per second, expressed in hertz. Symbol: F .

pulsed laser. A laser which 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.

pupil. The variable aperture in the iris through which light travels to the interior of the eye.

Q-switch. A device for producing very short (~ 10 -250 ns), intense laser pulses by enhancing the storage and dumping of electronic energy in and out of the lasing medium, respectively.

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

radian (rad). A unit of angular measure equal to the angle subtended at the center of a circle by an arc whose length is equal to the radius of the circle. 1 radian ~ 57.3 degrees; 2π radians = 360 degrees.

radiance. Radiant flux or power output per unit solid angle per unit area expressed in watts-per-centimeter squared per-steradian ($\text{W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$). Symbol: L

radiant energy. Energy emitted, transferred, or received in the form of radiation. Unit: joules (J). Symbol: Q

radiant exposure. Surface density of the radiant energy received, expressed in units of joules-per-centimeter squared ($\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$). Symbol: H

radiant flux. Power emitted, transferred, or received in the form of radiation. Unit: watts (W). Also called *radiant power*. Symbol: Φ

radiant power. Power emitted, transferred, or received in the form of radiation, expressed in watts (W). Synonym: *radiant flux*.

radiometry. For the purposes of this standard, the measurement of infrared, visible, and ultraviolet radiation.

reflectance. The ratio of total reflected radiant power to total incident power. Also called “reflectivity.”

reflection. Deviation of radiation following incidence on a surface.

refraction. The bending of a beam of light in transmission through an interface between two dissimilar media or in a medium whose refractive index is a continuous function of position (graded index medium).

refractive index (of a medium). Denoted by n , the ratio of the velocity of light in a vacuum to the phase velocity in the medium. Synonym: *index of refraction*.

repetitive pulse laser. A laser with multiple pulses of radiant energy occurring in a sequence.

retina. The sensory tissue that receives the incident image formed by the cornea and lens of the human eye.

retinal hazard region. Optical radiation with wavelengths between 0.4 and 1.4 μm , where the principal hazard is usually to the retina.

safety latch. A mechanical device designed to require a conscious decision to override the latch to gain entry into a controlled area.

scanning laser. A laser having a time-varying direction, origin, or pattern of propagation with respect to a stationary frame of reference.

scintillation. The rapid changes in irradiance levels in a cross-section of a laser beam.

secured enclosure. An enclosure to which casual access is impeded by an appropriate means, e.g., a door secured by a magnetically or electrically operated lock or latch, or by fasteners that need a tool to remove.

service. The performance of procedures, typically defined as repair, to bring the laser or laser system or laser product back to full and normal operational status. It does not include *operation* or *maintenance* as defined in this section.

shall. The word *shall* is to be understood as mandatory.

should. The word *should* is to be understood as advisory.

solid angle. The three-dimensional angular spread at the vertex of a cone measured by the area intercepted by the cone on a unit sphere whose center is the vertex of the cone. Solid angle is expressed in steradians (sr).

source. A laser or a laser-illuminated reflecting surface.

spectator. An individual who wishes to observe or watch a laser or laser system in operation, and who may lack the appropriate laser safety training.

specular reflection. A mirror-like reflection.

steradian (sr). The unit of measure for a solid angle. There are 4π steradians about any point in space.

standard operating procedure (SOP). Formal written description of the safety and administrative procedures to be followed in performing a specific task.

T_1 . The exposure duration (time) at which MPEs based upon thermal injury are replaced by MPEs based upon photochemical injury to the retina.

T_2 . The exposure duration (time) beyond which extended source MPEs based upon thermal injury are expressed as a constant irradiance.

T_{\max} . The total expected or anticipated exposure duration (see Section 3 for classification; see Section 8 for intended use determination). T_{\max} may differ depending upon its use.

telescopic viewing. Viewing an object from a long distance with the aid of an optical system that increases the visual size of the image. The system (e.g., binoculars) generally collects light through a large aperture thus magnifying hazards from large-beam, collimated lasers.

thermal effect. An effect brought about by the temperature elevation of a substance due to laser exposure.

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 by the Threshold Limit (TL) of the protective device, expressed in $\text{W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ or $\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$. 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.

t_{\min} . For a pulsed laser, the maximum duration for which the MPE is the same as the MPE for a 1 ns exposure. For thermal biological effects, this corresponds to the “thermal confinement duration” during which heat flow does not significantly change the absorbed energy content of the thermal relaxation volume of the irradiated tissue.

transmission. Passage of radiation through a medium.

transmittance. The ratio of transmitted power (energy) to incident power (energy).

ultraviolet radiation. In this standard, electromagnetic radiation with wavelengths between 0.18 and 0.40 μm (shorter than those of visible radiation).

uncontrolled area. An area where the occupancy and activity of those within is not subject to control and supervision for the purpose of protection from radiation hazards.

viewing window. A visually transparent part of an enclosure that contains a laser process. It may be possible to observe the laser processes through the viewing windows.

visible radiation (light). The term is used to describe electromagnetic radiation which can be detected by the human eye. In this standard, this term is used to describe wavelengths which lie in the range 0.4 to 0.7 μm . Derivative standards may legitimately use 0.38 – 0.78 μm for the visible radiation range.

watt (W). The unit of power or radiant flux. 1 watt = 1 joule-per-second.

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).

work practices. Procedures used to accomplish a task.

3. Hazard Evaluation and Classification

3.1 General.

Several aspects of the application of a laser or laser system influence the total laser hazard evaluation and, thereby, influence the application of control measures:

- (1) The laser or laser system's capability of injuring personnel or interfering with task performance
- (2) The environment in which the laser is used, including access to the beam path (considering enclosures, baffle, beam, etc.)
- (3) The personnel who may use or be exposed to laser radiation

Note: See also Section 7 Non-Beam Hazards such as those resulting from interactions with the beam during its intended operation.

The laser hazard class is based on the laser's capability of injuring personnel (first half of aspect (1) above). Any laser or laser system shall be classified according to its accessible radiation during operation. Lasers and laser systems classified in accordance with this standard shall be labeled with the appropriate hazard classification (see Section 3.3). Classification labeling used in conformance with the Federal Laser Product Performance

Standard may be used to satisfy this labeling requirement. It should be noted that in some cases there may be differences between this standard and the Federal Laser Product Performance Standard (see Appendix C for references). Under the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) Laser Notice 50, some products may also be labeled with the explanatory labels specified in IEC 60825-1 Ed. 1.2 (or latest revision thereof); these products are also considered as meeting the classification labeling requirement of this standard. However, if the laser has been modified subsequent to classification by the manufacturer, the laser may have to be re-classified (see Section 4.1.2).

Aspects (2) and (3) vary with each laser application and cannot be readily standardized. The total hazard evaluation procedure shall consider all aspects, although in most cases only aspect (1) influences the control measures which are applicable.

Only personnel trained in laser safety, optical engineering, physics or a related field are suited to perform the detailed hazard evaluation computations or the classification determinations of a laser or laser system as outlined in this section. In some instances, the LSO may not possess these qualifications, and may choose to delegate (effect) this responsibility. When this occurs, such evaluations are to be performed only by individuals who, as a result of training or experience, can provide knowledgeable technical assistance. Only then can the LSO be assured that the calculations and risk determinations will be accomplished correctly. Note that errors in such analysis could result in the specification of inadequate controls and present potentially hazardous conditions to personnel in the laser area.

3.2 Laser Considerations.

The LSO or knowledgeable individual responsible for laser classification shall ensure that laser output data are valid in accordance with Section 9 (Measurements). Classification shall be based on the maximum output power or radiant energy available for the intended use.

Note: The LSO would normally rely on the manufacturer's information for most commercial laser products and not need to perform measurements (see Section 1.2).

3.2.1 Multiwavelength Lasers. The classification of lasers or laser systems capable of emitting numerous wavelengths shall be based on the most hazardous possible operation (see Section 8.2.1).

3.2.1.1 A multiwavelength laser which by design can operate only as a single-wavelength laser shall be classified as a single-wavelength laser.

3.2.1.2 A multiwavelength laser which by design can operate over two or more wavelength regions (as defined in Section 8.2.3) shall require the classification to be determined in each region of operation. The classification of the laser shall be that of the most hazardous region. The appropriate control measures for each region shall be applied.

3.2.2 Repetitive-Pulse Lasers. The evaluation of repetitive-pulse lasers or exposures requires the use of certain correction factors (see Section 8). Within any time T , the AEL for multiple pulses or temporal variation shall not exceed the AEL for a single exposure of duration T .

3.2.3 Radiometric Parameters of the Laser Required for Determining Laser Hazard Classification.

3.2.3.1 Classification of essentially all lasers requires the following parameters:

- (1) Wavelength(s) or wavelength range
- (2) For CW or repetitive-pulse lasers: average power output within specified limiting apertures (effective power) and limiting exposure duration T_{\max} inherent in the design or intended use of the laser or laser system
- (3) For pulsed lasers: total energy per pulse (or peak power) within specified limiting apertures (effective energy), pulse duration, pulse repetition frequency, and emergent beam radiant exposure

3.2.3.2 Classification of extended source lasers or laser systems (such as laser arrays, injection laser diodes, and lasers having a permanent diffuser within the output optics) requires, in addition to the parameters listed in Section 3.2.3.1, knowledge of the apparent visual angle subtended by the source. However, evaluating these laser sources as point sources will provide conservative results.

3.2.3.3 Classification of highly diverging beam lasers (e.g., many laser diode emitters) requires determination of effective power or energy at the specified distance (see Section 9). This determination is made at the distance indicating the greatest hazard, but no closer than 10 cm from the closest point of human access (Condition 2). Determinations of hazards from optically aided viewing (i.e., telescopes and binoculars) should be made at the distance indicating the greatest hazard, but no closer than 2 m from the laser exit port, for all wavelengths (0.302 to 2.8 μm) that transmit through common optics (Condition 1). When determining hazards from optically aided viewing, the correct measurement aperture and measurement distance should be chosen from Table 9.

Note: See Appendix H for differences between the classification scheme of this standard and previous editions of this standard.

3.2.3.4 To determine the laser's potential for producing injury, it is necessary to consider not only if the laser output irradiance or radiant exposure exceeds the MPE for the unaided eye (treated by the measurement Condition 2) at 10 cm, but also whether a hazard would exist if the laser beam power or pulse energy were concentrated by optics and confined to the area of the limiting aperture from Tables 8a and 8b for the applicable MPE for the unaided eye. Table 9 provides the measurement apertures for the measurement of the AEL energy or power. The AEL for Class 1 is the identical energy for Class 1M, but measurement conditions differ (see Table 9).

Class 1M or 2M laser output shall be limited to the AEL for Class 3B under aided viewing measurement conditions (treated by the measurement Condition 1).

3.2.3.4.1 Most lasers can be considered point sources. For such lasers, the Class 1 AELs shall be determined by the product of two factors:

- (1) The MPE for the unaided eye (see Tables 5a and 5b) for limiting exposure duration T_{\max}

- (2) The area of the limiting aperture for the unaided eye from Table 8b, i.e., the Class 1 AEL = MPE \times (area of limiting aperture)

3.2.3.4.2 For lasers or laser systems which are extended sources and emit in the spectral range 0.4 μm to 1.4 μm , the MPE to be used in calculating the Class 1 AELs shall be determined from Table 5b. However, using Table 5a for evaluation of laser sources will provide conservative results. For thermal effects, the MPEs for extended sources include a correction factor C_E and often differ from the point source MPEs listed in Table 5a. The value of C_E is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) For classification when telescopes will not be used, C_E is computed for the angle subtended by the source at the evaluation distance (see Table 9). The evaluation distance is the minimum accessible distance that creates the maximum hazard, but no closer than 10 cm from the laser exit port (Condition 2).

Note: For focused beams, the laser beam is generally most hazardous near the external beam waist or focal point.

- (2) For classification considering the use of telescopes, C_E is computed for the angles subtended by the source through the optics at the evaluation distance (see Table 9). The standard optic used for classification is a 7-power optic with a 50 mm entrance aperture (Condition 1). The angular subtense through the optics is the angular subtense for unaided viewing multiplied by the power of the optics. The evaluation distance for optics is the distance which creates the maximum hazard, but no closer than 2 m (Condition 1) from the laser exit port.

Note: For beams that have an external beam waist or focal point farther than 2 m from the laser, the laser beam is generally most hazardous near the external beam waist or focal point.

- (3) Photochemical effects are based on radiance and integrated radiance averaged over the limiting cone angle (γ). For photochemical hazards, no corrections are necessary when optics are used to view extended sources larger than 11 mrad.
- (4) For optically aided viewing of sources having a potential photochemical viewing hazard and an angular subtense smaller than 11 mrad, only the emitted power or energy contained within a cone angle of 11 mrad from the magnified image is used to compute the irradiance or radiant exposure that is compared to the MPE.

Note: If this determination is difficult to apply, point source MPEs from Table 5a may be used and will result in a conservative Class 1 AEL.

3.2.3.5 The AELs for Class 2 and 2M shall be determined in the same manner as Class 1 AELs, except the MPEs are based on an exposure duration of 0.25 s (aversion response). For CW point source conditions, the MPE is $2.5 \text{ mW}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$, and the AEL is 1.0 mW.

3.3 Laser and Laser System Hazard Classification Definitions.

Tables C1 and C2 in Appendix C offer summaries of levels for laser and laser system classification: Table C1 for CW lasers with emission duration ≥ 0.25 s; and Table C2 for pulsed lasers with an emission duration < 0.25 s.

3.3.1 Classes 1 and 1M Lasers and Laser Systems.

3.3.1.1 Any laser, or laser system containing a laser, that cannot emit accessible laser radiation levels during operation in excess of the applicable Class 1 AEL for any emission duration within the maximum duration inherent in the design or intended use of the laser or laser system is a Class 1 laser or laser system during operation. The maximum exposure duration is assumed to be no more than 30,000 s except for infrared systems ($\lambda > 0.7 \mu\text{m}$), where 100 s shall be used. The exemption strictly applies to emitted laser radiation hazards and not to other potential hazards (see Section 7).

3.3.1.2 Lasers or laser systems intended for a specific use may be designated Class 1 by the LSO on the basis that use for a limiting exposure duration of T_{max} is less than 100 s, provided that the accessible laser radiation does not exceed the corresponding Class 1 AEL for any emission duration within the maximum duration inherent in that specific use.

3.3.1.3 Any laser or laser system that cannot emit during operation, accessible laser radiation levels in excess of the applicable Class 1 AEL under the conditions of measurement for the unaided eye, but exceeds the Class 1 AEL for telescopic viewing (Condition 1 in Table 9) and does not exceed the Class 3B AEL, for any emission duration within the maximum duration inherent in the design or intended use of the laser or laser system is a Class 1M laser or laser system. The maximum exposure duration is assumed to be no more than 30,000 s.

3.3.2 Classes 2 and 2M Visible Lasers and Laser Systems. Classes 2 and 2M lasers and laser systems are visible (0.4 to 0.7 μm) CW and repetitive-pulse lasers and laser systems which can emit accessible radiant energy exceeding the appropriate Class 1 AEL for the maximum duration inherent in the design or intended use of the laser or laser system, but not exceeding the Class 1 AEL for any applicable pulse (emission) duration < 0.25 s and not exceeding an accessible average radiant power of 1 mW. Class 2M lasers and laser systems pose the same ocular hazards to the unaided eye as Class 2, but are potentially hazardous when viewed with optical aids.

3.3.2.1 Any laser or laser system that cannot emit during operation accessible laser radiation levels in excess of the applicable Class 2 AEL under the conditions of measurement for the unaided eye, but exceeds the Class 2 AEL for telescopic viewing (Condition 1 in Table 9) and does not exceed the Class 3B AEL, for any emission duration within the maximum duration inherent in the design or intended use of the laser or laser system is a Class 2M laser or laser system. The maximum exposure duration is assumed to be no more than 0.25 s.

3.3.3 Classes 3R and 3B Lasers and Laser Systems

3.3.3.1 Class 3R lasers and laser systems include lasers and laser systems which have an accessible output between 1 and 5 times the Class 1 AEL for wavelengths shorter than 0.4 μm or longer than 0.7 μm , or less than 5 times the Class 2 AEL for wavelengths between 0.4 and 0.7 μm .

Note: Products can be classified as Class 1M and Class 2M even if their output exceeds Class 3R.

3.3.3.2 Class 3B lasers and laser systems include:

- (1) Lasers and laser systems operating outside the retinal hazard region (i.e. $< 0.4 \mu\text{m}$ or $> 1.4 \mu\text{m}$) which can emit accessible radiant power in excess of the Class 3R AEL

during any emission duration within the maximum duration inherent in the design of the laser or laser system, but which (a) cannot emit an average radiant power in excess of 0.5 W for $T \geq 0.25$ s or (b) cannot produce a radiant energy greater than 0.125 J within an exposure time $T < 0.25$ s.

- (2) Visible (0.4 to 0.7 μm) and near infrared (0.7 to 1.4 μm) lasers and laser systems which emit in excess of the AEL of Class 3R but which (a) cannot emit an average radiant power in excess of 0.5 W for $T \geq 0.25$ s and (b) cannot emit a radiant energy greater than 0.03 C_A J per pulse. For this limit, pulses separated by less than t_{\min} are to be considered one pulse.

3.3.4 Class 4 Lasers and Laser Systems. Class 4 lasers and laser systems are those that emit radiation that exceed the Class 3B AEL.

3.4 Environment in Which the Laser is Used.

Following laser or laser system classification, environmental factors require consideration. Their importance in the total hazard evaluation depends on the laser classification. The decision by the LSO to employ additional control measures not specifically required in Section 4 of this standard (or eliminate some that are, see Section 4.2), is influenced by environmental considerations principally for Class 3B and Class 4 lasers or laser systems.

The probability of personnel exposure to hazardous laser radiation shall be considered. This may be influenced by whether the laser is used indoors or outdoors. Examples of indoor applications include laser use in classrooms, machine shops, closed research laboratories or factory production lines. Examples of outdoor applications include laser use in laser light shows, highway construction sites, military laser ranges, the atmosphere above occupied areas, pipeline construction trenches, mining tunnels, free-space communications, or in outer space. Other environmental hazards (see Section 7) shall also be considered.

If exposure of unprotected personnel to the primary or specularly reflected beam is possible, the LSO shall determine the irradiance or radiant exposure for the primary or specularly reflected beam or the radiance of an extended source (see Appendix B) at the location(s) of possible exposure.

3.4.1 Nominal Hazard Zones. Where applicable, e.g., in the presence of unenclosed Class 3B and Class 4 beam paths, the LSO may specify the Nominal Hazard Zone (NHZ). If the beam of an unenclosed Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system is contained within a region having adequate control measures to protect personnel from exposure to levels of radiation above the appropriate MPE, that region may be considered to contain the NHZ. The NHZ may be determined by information supplied by the laser or laser system manufacturer, by measurement, or by using the appropriate laser range equation or other equivalent assessment as described in this section and Appendix B.

The LSO shall assure that consideration is given to direct, reflected and scattered radiation in the establishment of boundaries for the laser controlled area. The LSO may declare the laser use area as the NHZ in lieu of calculating all possible NHZ distances, such as in the case of a dedicated laser use room. Control measures are required within the NHZ and may fully enclose the NHZ when this area is limited in size (see Section 4.3.10). Viewing the main beam or a specular laser target with an optical instrument is potentially hazardous due to the

instrument's light-gathering capability (see Section 4.3.5.2; Appendixes B4.2, B6.4.3 and B6.6.3; and Examples 22-24, 45, and 53). Therefore, use of such optical systems may effectively increase the NHZ boundaries and must be considered in the overall hazard analysis.

3.4.2 Indoor Laser Operations. In general, only the laser is considered in evaluating an indoor laser operation if the beam is enclosed or is operated in a controlled area. The step-by-step procedure described below in Steps 1 through 7 is recommended for evaluation of the NHZ of laser and laser systems when used indoors if there is a potential for exposure of unprotected personnel. In this evaluation, consider all optics (lenses, mirrors, fiber optics, etc.) which are a permanent part of the laser beam path.

Step 1. Determine and evaluate the NHZ of all possible beam paths. Include multiple beam paths due to lack of fixed positioning and unintended beam paths due to unstable mounts, bearing wear, vibration, etc.

Step 2. Determine the NHZ for specular reflections (as from optical surfaces).

Step 3. Determine the extent of hazardous diffuse reflections if the emergent laser beam is focused. Hazardous diffuse reflections are possible from a focused or small-diameter beam of a Class 3B laser. However, the angular subtense of the source is normally sufficiently small at all practical viewing distances that point source MPEs apply. Determine the NHZ.

Step 4. Determine the likelihood for operation or maintenance personnel being within the NHZ during operation.

Step 5. Determine whether optical aids such as eye loupes or hand magnifiers will be used within 10 cm of a highly diverging beam.

Step 6. Determine whether other hazards exist (see Section 7).

3.4.3 Outdoor Laser Operations. The total hazard evaluation of a particular laser system depends on defining the extent of several potentially hazardous conditions. In this evaluation, consider all optics (lenses, mirrors, fiber optics, etc.) which are a permanent part of the laser beam path. This may be done in a step-by-step manner, as given below in Steps 1 through 7.

Note: For normal optics, a maximum transmission that would be expected is 90% in the wavelength range 0.4 to 0.7 μm , and 70% in the wavelength range of 0.302 to 0.400 μm and 0.7 to 2.8 μm .

Step 1. Determine the NHZ of the laser. Calculations of radiant exposure or beam irradiance as a function of range can be made with the range equation (see Appendix B6.3).

These calculated ranges are only estimates beyond a few hundred meters, since uncertainties arise from atmospheric effects (for example, scintillation due to turbulence).

Step 2. Evaluate potential hazards from transmission through windows and specular reflections. Specular surfaces ordinarily encountered (for example, windows and mirrors in vehicles and windows in buildings) are oriented vertically and will usually reflect a horizontal beam in a horizontal plane.

Note: As much as 8% of the beam's original irradiance or radiant exposure can be reflected toward the laser from a clear glass window which is oriented perpendicular to the beam. If the beam strikes a flat, specular surface at an angle, a much greater percentage of the beam can be reflected beyond, or to the side of, the target area. If the beam strikes a still pond or other similar surface at a grazing angle, effective reflectivity also may be high. Specular reflective surfaces, such as raindrops, wet leaves, and most other shiny natural objects, seldom reflect hazardous radiant intensities beyond one meter from these reflectors.

Step 3. Determine whether hazardous diffuse reflections exist (see Table 3 and Examples 47 - 55 in Appendix B6.6). Determine the corresponding NHZ.

Step 4. Determine whether the beam will visually interfere with critical tasks. Refer to ANSI Z136.6 for more information on operation of visible laser systems outdoors at night.

Step 5. Evaluate the stability of the laser platform to determine the extent of lateral range control and the lateral constraints that should be placed on the beam traverse. Determine the corresponding NHZ during operation.

Step 6. Consider the likelihood of people being in the NHZ.

Step 7. Determine whether optical aids such as telescopes or binoculars could be used within or near the beam path.

Step 8. Determine if visible lasers will be used near airports at night. Levels of laser irradiance as low as $50 \text{ nW}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ may be of concern. Refer to FAA Order 7400.2 (or latest revision thereof) and to ANSI Z136.6-2005 (or latest revision thereof) for additional guidance.

3.5 Personnel.

The personnel who may be in the vicinity of a laser and its emitted beam(s), including maintenance personnel, service personnel, visitors and operators, can influence the total hazard evaluation and, hence, influence the decision to adopt additional control measures.

3.5.1 If children or others unable to read or understand warning labels may be exposed to potentially hazardous laser radiation, the evaluation of the hazard is affected and control measures may require appropriate modification.

3.5.2. For certain lasers or laser systems (for example, lasers in a research setting, military laser rangefinders and some lasers used in the construction industry), the principal hazard control rests with the operator, whose responsibility is to avoid aiming the laser at personnel or flat mirror-like surfaces.

The following are considerations regarding operating personnel and those who may be exposed:

- (1) Maturity of judgment of the laser user(s)
- (2) General level of safety training and experience of laser user(s) (that is, whether high school students, military personnel, production line operators, scientists, etc.)
- (3) Awareness on the part of onlookers that potentially hazardous laser radiation may be present and awareness of the relevant safety precautions

- (4) Degree of training in laser safety of all individuals involved in laser operation
- (5) Reliability of individuals to follow standard operating procedures (SOPs) and recommended control procedures
- (6) Number of individuals and their locations relative to the primary beam or reflections, and potential for accidental exposure
- (7) Other hazards not due to laser radiation which may cause the individuals to react unexpectedly or which influence the choice of personal protective equipment

Note: Examples of typical lasers classified in accordance with this standard are given in Table C1 and Table C2 of Appendix C. Examples of calculations which may be useful in applying this standard are given in Appendix B.

4. Control Measures

4.1 General Considerations.

Control measures shall be devised to reduce the possibility of exposure of the eye and skin to hazardous levels of laser radiation and other hazards associated with laser devices during operation and maintenance (see Section 7).

The LSO shall have the authority to monitor and enforce the control of laser hazards and effect the knowledgeable evaluation and control of laser hazards (see Sections 1.3.2 (1) and Appendix A1.1) and conduct surveillance of the appropriate control measures. The LSO may, at times, delegate specific responsibilities to a Deputy LSO or other responsible person (see Appendix A1.1).

For all uses of lasers and laser systems, it is recommended that the minimum laser radiation required for the application be used. Also, it is recommended that the beam height be maintained at a level other than the normal position of the eye of a person in the standing or seated positions.

Review of reported incidents has demonstrated that accidental eye and skin exposures to laser radiation, and accidents related to the non-beam hazards of a laser or laser system, are most often associated with the following conditions:

- (1) Unanticipated eye exposure during alignment
- (2) Misaligned optics and upwardly directed beams
- (3) Available eye protection not used
- (4) Equipment malfunction
- (5) Improper methods of handling high voltage
- (6) Intentional exposure of unprotected personnel
- (7) Operators unfamiliar with laser equipment
- (8) Lack of protection for non-beam hazards

- (9) Improper restoration of equipment following service
- (10) Eyewear worn not appropriate for laser in use
- (11) Unanticipated eye/skin exposure during laser usage
- (12) Inhalation of laser generated air contaminants and/or viewing laser generated plasmas
- (13) Fires resulting from the ignition of materials
- (14) Eye or skin injury of photochemical origin
- (15) Failure to follow standard operating procedures (SOPs)

The thorough understanding of the scope of laser hazards can facilitate the choice of the most appropriate and/or required control measures. This can be implemented with training programs (see Section 5).

Engineering controls (items incorporated into the laser or laser system or designed into the installation by the user) shall be given primary consideration in instituting a control measure program for limiting access to laser radiation (see Section 4.3).

Enclosure of the laser equipment or beam path is the preferred method of control, since the enclosure will isolate or minimize the hazard.

If engineering controls are impractical or inadequate (see Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2), administrative and procedural controls (see Sections 4.4 and 4.5) and personal protective equipment (see Section 4.6) shall be used. The limits of any type of control measure (for example, failure modes of enclosures and eye protection, or the inability of some personnel to understand written warnings) shall be considered in developing a laser hazard control program.

Engineering, administrative, and procedural controls are summarized in Table 10.

4.1.1 Applicability of Control Measures. The purpose of control measures is to reduce the possibility of human exposure to hazardous laser radiation (see Section 3) and to non-beam hazards (see Section 7).

In some cases, more than one control measure may be specified. In such cases, more than one control measure which accomplishes the same purpose shall not be required.

4.1.1.1 Operation, Maintenance, and Service. Important in the implementation of control measures is the distinction between the functions of *operation*, *maintenance*, and *service*. First, lasers and laser systems are classified on the basis of the level of the laser radiation accessible during intended use (operation). Operation is detailed in the user operation instructions. Maintenance is a task specified in the maintenance instructions for assuring routine performance of the laser or laser system. This may include such frequently required tasks as cleaning and replenishment of expendables. Maintenance may or may not require beam access. Service functions are usually performed with far less frequency than maintenance functions (these may include replacing the laser resonator mirrors or repair of faulty components) and may require access to the laser beam by those performing the service functions. Service functions are delineated in the service manuals of the laser or laser system.

During periods of service or maintenance, control measures appropriate to the class of the embedded laser shall be implemented when the beam enclosures are removed and beam access is possible (see Sections 4.3.12 and 4.4.7).

The fact that beam access is possible during maintenance or service procedures will *not alter* the classification of the laser system which is based upon beam access conditions during operation.

Instructions for the safe operation of lasers and laser systems are provided by the manufacturer. However, under some conditions, such instructions may not be sufficiently detailed for specific application due to special use conditions. In this case, the LSO shall provide additional safety instructions.

Note: The applicability of the various control measures as related to class is summarized in Table 10. The classes to which the following sections apply are designated in parentheses in the title of each section title.

The control measures described in the following subparagraphs of this section shall apply when a laser or laser system is in operation.

4.1.1.2 Supervised Laser Operation (Class 3B and Class 4). Class 3B and Class 4 lasers or laser systems shall be operated at all times under the direct supervision or control of an experienced, trained operator who shall maintain visual surveillance of conditions for safe use and terminate laser emission in the event of equipment malfunction or any other condition of unsafe use. The operator shall maintain visual access to the entire laser controlled area during all conditions of operation (see Section 4.3.10).

4.1.1.3 Unattended Laser Operation (All Classes). Only Class 1 lasers or laser systems shall be used for unattended operation in unsupervised areas without the implementation of additional control measures requirements as detailed below.

If a Class 1M, Class 2, Class 2M, or Class 3R laser or laser system is not operated at all times under the direct supervision or control of an experienced, trained operator, the laser or laser system shall be provided with a clearly visible label that includes the applicable information specified in Section 4.7.5.

If a Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system is not operated at all times under the direct supervision or control of an experienced, trained operator, the laser radiation levels to which access can be gained shall be limited by control measures such as beam traps, barriers, windows, or other means of area control so that unprotected spectators in the area shall not be exposed to levels that exceed the applicable MPE limits in any space in the area that they may occupy.

The unattended use of Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems shall be permitted only when the LSO has implemented appropriate control measures that provide adequate protection and laser safety training to those who may enter the laser controlled area during times of unattended use.

All areas where unattended Class 3B or Class 4 lasers and laser systems operate shall be provided with standard laser safety warning area signs containing the “Danger” signal word and appropriate instructions regarding the hazards of entry into the space when no operator is present (see Section 4.7.4).

4.1.2 Laser System Modifications (All Classes). The LSO may reclassify, using the provisions and requirements of this standard, a given laser or laser system which has been modified. However, one should note that lasers and laser systems which have been altered may necessitate recertification, reclassification, and compliance reporting under the requirements of the Federal Laser Product Performance Standard (FLPPS).

4.1.3 Lasers or Laser Systems for Health Care Use (All Classes). The control measures outlined herein shall not be considered 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, to the requirements as specified in the American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers in Health Care Facilities, ANSI Z136.3-2005 (or latest revision thereof).

4.1.4 Electrical, Beam Interaction, and Other Associated Hazards. See Section 7.

4.1.5 Laser Pointers. It is recommended that the power of a laser pointer should not exceed 1 mW for most conventional uses.

The FDA includes laser pointers under the definition of a surveying, leveling, and alignment laser products. This is included in the U.S. Federal Laser Product Performance Standard (21 CFR Part 1040.11) for Specific Purpose Laser Products (latest revision). That section indicates that each such laser product shall comply with all of the applicable requirements of 1040.10 for a Class I, II, or IIIa laser product and shall not permit human access to laser radiation in excess of the accessible emission limits of Class I and, if applicable, Class II, or Class IIIa (CDRH classifications). Hence, by this definition, laser pointers are technically limited to the maximum Class 3R (5 mW) output.

Note: The FDA has issued a warning to parents and school officials about the possibility of eye damage to children from hand-held laser pointers which indicated that such devices are generally safe when used as intended by teachers and lecturers to highlight areas on a chart or screen. However, they are not to be considered as children's toys. They note that the light energy that laser pointers can aim into the eye can be more damaging than staring directly into the sun. Federal law requires a warning on the product label about this potential hazard to the eyes and the FDA suggests they should be used by children only with adequate supervision (www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/NEW00609.html).

Laser pointers should be covered by an administrative control and not be given to children. It is of importance that users be aware that some communities have adopted local ordinances which impose limitations on laser pointer use and/or purchase.

Users of these products need to be alerted to the potential hazards and be encouraged to follow the recommended appropriate safety procedures. The key approach in safety programs for laser pointers is to recommend education and training to all involved with these products. The area posting recommendation in Section 4.3.9.1 (Class 3R) is not needed for laser pointers (see Appendix D1.2.3).

4.2 Substitution of Alternate Control Measures (Class 3B or Class 4).

Upon review and approval by the LSO, the engineering control measures specified in 4.3 and administrative controls specified in 4.4 for Class 3B and Class 4 lasers or laser systems, may be replaced by procedural, administrative (see Section 4.4), or other alternate engineering controls which provide equivalent protection. This situation could occur, for example, in medical or research and development environments.

Accordingly, if alternate control measures are instituted, then those personnel directly affected by the measures shall be provided the appropriate laser safety and operational training (see Sections 5 and 7).

4.3 Engineering Controls.

The engineering controls for a laser or laser system are as specified in Sections 4.3.1 to 4.3.14 and are summarized in Table 10.

Commercial laser products manufactured in compliance with the Federal Laser Product Performance Standard (FLPPS) will be certified by the manufacturer and will incorporate those engineering controls required by the FLPPS or the IEC 60825-1 standard (or latest revision thereof). The LSO shall effect any additional engineering control measures that are required as outlined in Section 4.

The use of the additional controls outlined in this section shall be considered in order to reduce the potential for hazard associated with some applications of lasers and laser systems.

Engineering controls (performance features) which are supplied by the manufacturer of certified products and are used in this document are described in Sections 4.3.1, 4.3.2, 4.3.3, 4.3.4, 4.3.5.1, 4.3.7, 4.3.8, and 4.3.14.

4.3.1 Protective Housings (All Classes). A protective housing shall be provided for all classes of lasers or laser systems (except as noted in Section 4.3.1.1). The protective housing may require interlocks (Section 4.3.2) and labels (Section 4.7).

Special safety procedures may be required when protective housings are removed, e.g., for alignment, (see temporary control area in Section 4.4.7). The use of appropriate eyewear is recommended at such times (see Section 4.6.2).

If a user-created enclosure does not meet the requirements of a protective housing (e.g., a non-interlocked cover), it shall be considered as a barrier or curtain and other controls are required per Section 4.3.1.1.

4.3.1.1 Operating a Laser without Protective Housing (Class 3B or 4). In some circumstances, such as research and development and during the manufacture or servicing of lasers, operation of lasers or laser systems without a protective housing may become necessary. In such cases the LSO shall effect a hazard analysis and ensure that control measures are instituted appropriate to the class of maximum accessible emission level to assure safe operation. These controls may include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Laser controlled area (see Sections 4.3.10 and 4.3.11)
- (2) Eye protection (see Section 4.6.2)

- (3) Appropriate barriers, shrouds, beam stops, etc. (see Sections 4.3.8 and 4.6.4)
- (4) Administrative and procedural controls (see Section 4.4)
- (5) Education and training (see Section 5)

4.3.1.2 Walk-in Protective Housing (Embedded Class 3B or Class 4). Class 1 lasers or laser systems which contain embedded Class 3B or Class 4 lasers with protective housings which are of sufficient size to allow personnel within the working space (walk-in protective housings) shall be provided with an area warning system (floor mats, IR sensors, etc.) which is activated upon entry by personnel into the protective housing. The sensors shall be designed to interlock with the laser power supply or laser beam shutter so as to prevent access to laser radiation above the applicable MPE. Only authorized personnel shall be provided means to override the sensors for alignment or testing procedures if beam access is required for beam diagnostic purposes. If overridden, an appropriate warning (light, electronic tone, etc.) shall be activated. All appropriate control measures shall be implemented within the enclosure during such testing periods (see Sections 4.3.1.1, 4.3.12 and 4.6).

Note: Engineering controls are preferred over administrative controls.

4.3.2 Interlocks on Removable Protective Housings (All Classes with Embedded Class 3B or 4). Protective housings which enclose Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems shall be provided with an interlock system which is activated when the protective housing is opened or removed during operation and maintenance. The interlock or interlock system shall be designed to prevent access to laser radiation above the applicable MPE. The interlock may, for example, be electrically or mechanically interfaced to a shutter which interrupts the beam when the protective housing is opened or removed (see Section 7.2 for electrical hazards).

Fail-safe interlocks shall be provided for any portion of the protective housing which, by design, can be removed or displaced during operation and maintenance, and thereby allows access to Class 3B or Class 4 laser radiation. One method to fulfill the fail-safe requirement is the use of redundant electrical series connected interlocks.

The protective housing interlock shall not be defeated or overridden during operation unless the provisions of Section 4.3.1.1 have been fully implemented.

The LSO or designee should effect the regular inspection of the protective housing interlocks and verify they are functioning.

Adjustments or procedures during service on lasers or laser systems containing interlocks shall not cause the interlocks to be inoperative when the equipment is restored to its operational condition, except as noted in Section 4.3.1.1.

4.3.3 Service Access Panels (All Classes). Portions of the protective housing that are only intended to be removed from any laser or laser system by service personnel, which then permit direct access to laser radiation associated with a Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system, shall either:

- (1) Be interlocked (fail-safe interlock not required), or

- (2) Require a tool for removal and shall have an appropriate warning label (see Section 4.7) on the panel.

If the interlock can be bypassed or defeated, a warning label with the appropriate indications shall be located on the protective housing near the interlock (see Section 4.7). The label shall include language appropriate to the laser hazard. The interlock design shall not permit the service access panel to be replaced with the interlock remaining bypassed or defeated.

4.3.4 Key Control (Class 3B or Class 4). A Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system should be provided with a master switch. This master switch shall effect beam termination and/or system shutoff and shall be operated by a key, or by a coded access (such as a computer code). The authority for access to the master switch shall be vested in the appropriate supervisory personnel.

As an alternative, the master switch can be designed to allow system activation using a momentary switch action (or alternative) that initiates system operation with the option that the key (or alternative) can be removed after operation commences. In this mode, if the system ceases to operate, the key switch (or alternative) must again be used to restart the laser or laser system.

During periods of prolonged non-use (e.g., laser storage), the master switch should be left in a disabled condition (key removed or equivalent).

A single master switch on a main control unit shall be acceptable for multiple laser installations where the operational controls have been integrated.

All energy sources associated with Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems shall be designed to permit lockout/tagout procedures required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the U.S. Department of Labor (see Section 10 for reference).

4.3.5 Viewing Windows, Display Screens, and Collecting Optics. In order to adequately address additional protection requirements, it is sometimes necessary to utilize a number of various protective devices such as viewing windows, display screens, and laser barriers as defined in Section 2.

4.3.5.1 Viewing Windows and Diffuse Display Screens (All Classes). All viewing windows and diffuse (reflective or transmitted) display screens included as an integral part of a laser or laser system shall incorporate a suitable means (such as interlocks, filters, attenuators) to maintain the laser radiation at the viewing position at or below the applicable MPE as determined by the LSO (see Section 4.6.2.5.2).

Important in the selection of window and display screen material are the factors of flammability and decomposition products of the material. It is essential that the material used for viewing windows and diffuse display screens does not support combustion or release laser generated airborne contaminants (LGAC) above the current occupational limits following exposure to laser radiation unless the proper safeguards are in place to ensure personnel safety (see Section 7).

4.3.5.2 Collecting Optics (All Classes). All collecting optics (such as lenses, telescopes, microscopes, endoscopes, eye-loupes, etc.) that integrate the use of a laser or laser system shall incorporate suitable means (such as interlocks, filters, attenuators) to maintain the laser radiation transmitted through the collecting optics to levels at or below the appropriate MPE,

as determined by the LSO (see Section 4.6.2.5.2). Collecting optics filter housings shall be labeled in accordance with Section 4.6.5.3.

Note: Normal or prescription eyewear are not considered collecting optics.

4.3.6 Beam Paths (Class 3B or Class 4). Control of the laser beam path shall be accomplished as described in the following (see also Appendix B).

4.3.6.1 Fully Open Beam Path (Class 3B or Class 4). In applications of Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems where a beam path is unenclosed a laser hazard evaluation shall be effected by the LSO.

In some cases, the total hazard assessment may be dependent upon the nature of the environment, the geometry of the application or the spatial limitations of other hazards associated with the laser use. This may include, for example, localized fume or radiant exposure hazards produced during laser material processing or surgery, robotic working envelopes, location of walls, barriers, or other equipment in the laser environment (see Section 4.1.4 and Section 7).

4.3.6.2 Limited Open Beam Path (Class 3B or Class 4). In applications of Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems where the beam path is confined by design to significantly limit the degree of accessibility of the open beam, a hazard analysis shall be effected by the LSO. The analysis will define the area where laser radiation is accessible at levels above the appropriate MPE and will define the appropriate control measures in that area. The LSO shall establish controls appropriate to the magnitude and extent of the accessible radiation.

4.3.6.2.1 Class 1 Conditions. Frequently the hazard analysis will define an extremely limited NHZ and procedural controls can provide adequate protection. Class 1 conditions shall be considered as fulfilled for those limited open beam path lasers or laser systems where analysis, including measurements when necessary, confirms that the accessible levels during operation are at or below applicable MPE levels.

4.3.6.3 Enclosed Beam Path (All Classes). In applications of lasers or laser systems where the entire beam path is enclosed, and the enclosure fulfills all requirements of a protective housing (i.e., limits the laser radiation exposure at or below the applicable MPE; see Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2), the requirements of Class 1 are fulfilled and no further controls are required.

When the protective housing requirements are temporarily relaxed, such as during service, the LSO shall effect the appropriate controls. These may include a temporary laser control area (see Section 4.3.12) and administrative and procedural controls (see Section 4.4).

Protective housings which are of sufficient size to allow personnel within the enclosure (walk-in protective housings) require special interlocking (see Section 4.3.1.2).

4.3.7 Remote Interlock Connector (Class 3B or Class 4). A Class 3B laser or laser system should and Class 4 laser or laser system shall be provided with a remote interlock connector. The interlock connector facilitates electrical connections to an emergency master disconnect interlock, or to a room, entryway, floor, or area interlock, as may be required for a Class 4 controlled area (see Section 4.3.10.2).

When the terminals of the connector are open-circuited, the accessible radiation shall not exceed the applicable MPE.

4.3.8 Beam Stop or Attenuator (Class 3B or Class 4). A Class 3B laser or laser system should be provided with a permanently attached beam stop or attenuator (see Table 10).

A Class 4 laser or laser system shall be provided with a permanently attached beam stop or attenuator.

The beam stop or attenuator shall be capable of preventing access to laser radiation in excess of the applicable MPE when the laser or laser system output is not required, as in warm up procedures.

There may be a few instances, such as during service, when a temporary beam attenuator placed over the beam aperture can reduce the level of accessible laser radiation to levels at or below the applicable MPE. In this case, the LSO may deem that laser eye protection is not required.

Note: For those lasers or laser systems that do not require a warm-up time, the main power switch may be substituted for the requirement of a beam stop or attenuator.

4.3.9 Laser Area Warning Signs and Activation Warnings (Class 3R, Class 3B, or Class 4).

4.3.9.1 Warning Signs – Posting (Class 3R, Class 3B or Class 4).

Class 3R Laser Area: An area which contains a Class 3R laser or laser system should be posted with the appropriate sign as described in Section 4.7, except as excluded by Sections 4.5.1.10 and 4.1.5 (laser pointer).

Class 3B or Class 4 Laser Area: An area which contains a Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system shall be posted as described in Sections 4.3.10.1, 4.3.10.2, and 4.3.11.1 with the appropriate sign described in Section 4.7, except as excluded by Section 4.5.1.10.

Temporary Laser Controlled Area (Class 3B and Class 4): The exterior boundary of a temporary laser controlled area (see Section 4.3.12) shall be posted with a Notice sign as described in Section 4.7, and as detailed in Section 4.7.3.3.

4.3.9.2 Warning Signs – Purpose (Class 3R, Class 3B, or Class 4). The purpose of a laser area warning sign is to convey a rapid visual hazard-alerting message that:

- (1) Warns of the presence of a laser hazard in the area
- (2) Indicates specific policy in effect relative to laser controls
- (3) Indicates the severity of the hazard (e.g., class of laser, NHZ extent, etc.)
- (4) Instructs appropriate action(s) to take to reduce the hazard (eyewear requirements, etc.)

The laser warning signs shall utilize warning statements as defined in Section 5 of ANSI Z535.2-1998 (or latest revision thereof), Standard for Environmental and Facility Safety Signs, where the signal words have the following meanings:

“DANGER” indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. This signal word is to be limited to the most extreme conditions.

“CAUTION” indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices.

“NOTICE” is used to indicate a statement of facility policy as the message relates directly or indirectly to the safety of personnel or the protection of property. This signal word shall not be associated directly with a hazard or hazardous situation and must not be used in place of “DANGER” or “CAUTION”.

The laser area warning signs shall be designed as detailed in Section 4.7 and are to be posted as detailed in Sections 4.3.10.1, 4.3.10.2 and 4.3.11.1 and summarized in Table 11.

4.3.9.3 Warning Signs for Non-Beam Hazards. Warning signs for non-beam hazards (e.g., LGACs, electrical, compressed gases) as detailed in Section 7, shall be posted when the hazards are possible as specified in the current revision of ANSI 535.2 (see Multiple Hazard Labeling Requirements) and/or other standards applicable to the specific hazard(s) (see Section 10).

4.3.9.4 Activation Warning Systems (Class 3B or Class 4). An activation warning system should be used with Class 3B, and shall be used with Class 4 lasers or laser systems during activation or startup.

4.3.9.4.1 Audible Warning Devices (Class 3B and Class 4). For single-pulse lasers or laser systems, an audible system may commence operation when the laser power supply is charged for operation, for example, during the charging of capacitor banks.

Note that distinctive and clearly identifiable sounds which arise from auxiliary equipment (such as a vacuum pump or fan) and which are uniquely associated with the emission of laser energy are also acceptable as audible warnings.

4.3.9.4.2 Visible Warning Devices (Class 3B and Class 4). One form of visible warning device is a single red light or lighted laser warning sign that flashes when the laser is operating and is readably visible through laser protective eyewear and also viewable within the area. The light can be electrically interfaced and controlled by the laser power supply so that the light is on and flashing only when the laser is operating.

Another possible configuration can be a warning light assembly that may be interfaced to the laser controller to indicate conditions of enabled laser (high voltage on), laser on (beam on), and area clear (no high voltage or beam on). (*Note: Only a green light shall be used to indicate a safe condition.*) In this case, the green light will indicate when the laser is not operational (high voltage off) *and* by an additional (yellow) light when the laser is powered up (high voltage applied, but no laser emission) *and* by an additional (flashing optional) red light that activates when the laser is operating.

Note: The LSO shall consider alternative control measures for the hearing and visually impaired.

4.3.10 Indoor Laser Controlled Area (Class 3B or Class 4). A laser hazard analysis shall be effected by the LSO. If the analysis determines that the classification associated with the maximum level of accessible radiation is Class 3B or Class 4, a laser controlled area shall be established and adequate control measures instituted (see Section 4.3.10.1 or 4.3.10.2).

Note: The requirements for nonenclosed lasers or laser systems involving the general public are detailed in Section 4.5.1.

4.3.10.1 Class 3B Indoor Laser Controlled Area (Class 3B). The Class 3B laser controlled area shall:

- (1) Be controlled to permit lasers and laser systems to be operated only by personnel who have been trained in laser safety and in the operation of the laser or laser system. (see Section 5.5).
- (2) Be posted with the appropriate warning sign(s) (see Section 4.7), except as detailed in Section 4.5.1.10. An appropriate warning sign shall be posted at the entryway(s) and, if deemed necessary by the LSO, should be posted within the laser-controlled area.
- (3) Be operated in a manner such that the path is well defined
- (4) Be well defined and controlled if the laser beam must extend outdoors and projects into a controlled airspace, particularly under adverse atmospheric conditions, e.g., rain, fog, snow, etc. (see Section 4.3.11.1 or 4.3.11.2).

In addition to the above, a Class 3B controlled area should:

- (5) Be under the direct supervision of an individual knowledgeable in laser safety
- (6) Be located so that access to the area by spectators is limited and requires approval, except as detailed in Section 4.5
- (7) Have any potentially hazardous beam terminated in a beamstop of an appropriate material
- (8) Have only diffusely reflecting materials in or near the beam path, where feasible
- (9) Provide personnel within the laser-controlled area with the appropriate eye protection as specified in Section 4.6
- (10) Have the laser secured such that the exposed beam path is above or below eye level of a person in any standing or seated position, except as required for medical use
- (11) Have all windows, doorways, open portals, etc. from an indoor facility either covered or restricted in such a manner as to reduce the transmitted laser radiation to levels at or below the applicable ocular MPE
- (12) Require storage or disabling (for example, removal of the key) of the laser or laser system when not in use to prevent unauthorized use

4.3.10.2 Class 4 Laser Controlled Area (Class 4). All Class 4 area or entryway safety controls shall be designed to allow both rapid egress by laser personnel at all times and admittance to the laser controlled area under emergency conditions.

All personnel who require entry into a laser controlled area shall be appropriately trained, provided with appropriate protective equipment, and shall follow all applicable administrative and procedural controls (see Section 5). For requirements for spectators in a laser controlled area see Section 4.4.6.

4.3.10.2.1 Emergency Conditions. For emergency conditions there shall be a clearly marked “Emergency Stop” or other appropriately marked device appropriate for the intended purpose (remote controlled connector or equivalent device) available for deactivating the laser or reducing the output to levels at or below the applicable MPE.

4.3.10.2.2 Entryway Controls. The Class 4 laser controlled area shall be designed to fulfill the items of Section 4.3.10.1 and in addition shall incorporate one of the following alternatives:

(1) Non-defeatable (non-override) Area or Entryway Safety Controls.

Non-defeatable safety latches, entryway or area interlocks (e.g., electrical switches, pressure sensitive floor mats, infrared, or sonic detectors) shall be used to deactivate the laser or reduce the output to levels at or below the applicable MPE in the event of unexpected entry into the laser controlled area (see Figure 2a).

(2) Defeatable Area or Entryway Safety Controls.

Defeatable safety latches, entryway, or area interlocks shall be used if non-defeatable area/entryway safety controls limit the intended use of the laser or laser system. For example, during normal usage requiring operation without interruption (e.g., long term testing, medical procedures, surgery), if it is clearly evident that there is no laser radiation hazard at the point of entry, override of the safety controls shall be permitted to allow access to authorized personnel provided that they have been adequately trained and provided with adequate personal protective equipment (see Figure 2a).

(3) Procedural Area or Entryway Safety Controls.

Where safety latches or interlocks are not feasible or are inappropriate, for example during medical procedures, surgery, etc., the following shall apply (see Figure 2b):

- (a) All authorized personnel shall be adequately trained and adequate personal protective equipment shall be provided upon entry.
- (b) A door, blocking barrier, screen, curtains, etc. shall be used to block, screen, or attenuate the laser radiation at the entryway. The level of laser radiation at the exterior of these devices shall not exceed the applicable MPE, nor shall personnel experience any exposure above the MPE immediately upon entry.
- (c) At the entryway there shall be an activation warning system indicating that the laser is energized and operating at Class 4 levels (see 4.3.9.4).

4.3.11 Outdoor Control Measures (All Classes).

4.3.11.1 General. All Class 3B and 4 lasers or laser systems used outdoors shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) The LSO shall effect an analysis to establish the NHZ if not provided as part of the documentation furnished by the manufacturer.
- (2) If visible lasers are used at night, the LSO shall effect an analysis to determine if the laser beams will visually interfere with critical tasks. For operation of visible lasers at night near airports, refer to FAA Order 7400.2 (or latest revision thereof) and ANSI Z136.6-2005 (or latest revision thereof).
- (3) The NHZ shall be clearly posted with laser warning signs and demarcated and identified as the laser hazard area (see Section 4.3.9.2). For conditions of navigable airspace see Section 4.3.11.2.

- (4) All personnel authorized to enter the NHZ shall be appropriately trained (see Section 5.2).
- (5) Only personnel who have been authorized shall operate a laser or laser system.
- (6) Appropriate combinations of physical barriers, screening, and personal protective equipment shall be provided and used by those personnel authorized within the NHZ (see Section 4.6).
- (7) Appropriate administrative controls shall be used if personnel are permitted within the NHZ (see Section 4.4).
- (8) Directing the laser beam toward automobiles, aircraft, or other manned structures or vehicles shall be prohibited unless adequate training and protective equipment is provided and used by all affected personnel, or as authorized by the LSO and permitted by FAA Order 7400.2 (latest revision). In such authorized cases, it is essential that adequate training and protective equipment are provided and used by all personnel within these areas.
- (9) The exposed laser beam path shall not be maintained at or near personnel eye level without specific authorization of the LSO.
- (10) The beam path shall be confined and terminated wherever possible (see Section 4.3.8).
- (11) When the laser is not being used, it shall be disabled in a manner that prevents unauthorized use (see Section 4.3.4).
- (12) The operation of Class 4 lasers or laser systems during rain, snowfall, fog, or dusty atmosphere may produce hazardous scattering near the beam. In such conditions, the LSO shall evaluate the need for, and specify the use of, appropriate personal protective equipment.

4.3.11.2 Use of Lasers in Navigable Airspace (All Classes). The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is responsible for regulating the use and efficient utilization of navigable airspace to ensure the safety of aircraft and the protection of people and property on the ground. Laser experiments or programs that will involve the use of lasers or laser systems in navigable airspace should be coordinated with the FAA (Washington, DC 20590, or any FAA regional office) and U.S. Space Command (please consult with the current ANSI Z136.6) in the planning stages to ensure proper control of any attendant hazard to airborne personnel or equipment. Also refer to FAA Order 7400.2 (or latest revision thereof) and ANSI Z136.6-2005 (or latest revision thereof). Laser light show demonstrations that use Class 3B or Class 4 laser systems to create visible open beams shall coordinate with the FDA prior to use (See 4.5.1).

4.3.12 Temporary Laser Controlled Area (All Classes). In those conditions where removal of panels or protective housings, overriding of protective housing interlocks, or entry into the NHZ becomes necessary (such as for service), and the accessible laser radiation exceeds the applicable MPE, a temporary laser controlled area shall be devised for the laser or laser system.

Such an area, which by its nature will not have the built-in protective features as defined for a laser controlled area, shall provide all safety requirements for all personnel, both within and outside the area.

A Notice sign (see Section 4.7.3.3) shall be posted outside the temporary laser controlled area to warn of the potential hazard.

4.3.13 Controlled Operation (Class 4). Whenever appropriate and possible, Class 4 lasers or laser systems should be controlled and monitored at a position as distant as possible from the emission portal of the laser or laser system.

4.3.14 Equipment Labels (All Classes)

Note: Labeling of laser equipment in accordance with the Federal Laser Product Performance Standard (FLPPS) or the IEC 60825-1 standard (or latest revision thereof) may be used to satisfy the equipment labeling requirements in this standard.

4.3.14.1 Warning Logotype Label for Equipment (All Classes Except Class 1). All lasers or laser systems (except Class 1) shall have appropriate warning labels (see Section 4.7.5) with the laser sunburst logotype symbol and the appropriate cautionary statement. The label shall be affixed to a conspicuous place on the laser housing or control panel. Such labels should be placed on both the housing and the control panel if these are separated by more than 2 meters.

4.3.14.2 Protective Housing Equipment Label (All Classes). An advisory protective housing label that indicates the relative hazard of laser radiation contained within the housing shall be placed on all removable protective housings which have no safety interlock and which can be removed or displaced during operation, maintenance, or service, and thereby allow access to laser radiation in excess of the applicable MPE. The laser sunburst logotype symbol is not required on such advisory labels. See Section 4.7.5 (1)(a-e) for suggested wording.

4.3.14.3 Long Distance Beam Conduit Label (All Classes Except Class 1). The LSO shall effect posting advisory protective housing labeling on long distance (>3 meters) beam conduits that contain beams operating above Class 1 levels. Such labeling shall be placed on the outside of the conduit at appropriate intervals (approximately 3 meters), to provide warning of the relative hazards of laser radiation contained within the conduit. The laser sunburst logotype symbol is not required on such advisory protective housing labels. See Section 4.7.5 (1)(a-e) for suggested wording.

Note: This does not apply to optical fiber cable used for telecommunications, i.e., optical fiber communications systems (OFCS). See ANSI Z136.2-1997 (or latest revision thereof) or IEC 60825-2 (or latest revision thereof) for OFCS labeling requirements.

4.4 Administrative and Procedural Controls

Administrative and procedural controls are methods or instructions which specify rules, or work practices, or both, which implement or supplement engineering controls and which may specify the use of personal protective equipment. Unless otherwise specified, administrative and procedural controls shall apply only to Class 3B and Class 4 lasers or laser systems.

The use of administrative and procedural controls are summarized in Table 10.

4.4.1 Standard Operating Procedures (Class 3B or Class 4). The LSO should require and approve written standard operating, maintenance and service procedures (SOPs) for Class 3B lasers or laser systems. The LSO shall require and approve written SOPs for Class 4 lasers or laser systems. These written SOPs shall be maintained with the laser equipment for reference by the operator, and maintenance or service personnel (see Section 4.4.5).

4.4.2 Output Emission Limitations (Class 3R, Class 3B, or Class 4). If, in the opinion of the LSO, excessive power or radiant energy is accessible during operation or maintenance of a Class 3R, 3B, or Class 4 laser or laser system, the LSO shall take such action as required to reduce the levels of accessible power or radiant energy to that which is commensurate with the required application.

4.4.3 Education and Training (All Classes except Class 1). Education and training shall be provided for operators, maintenance and service personnel for Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems. Education and training should be provided for operators, maintenance and service personnel for Class 1M, Class 2, Class 2M and Class 3R lasers or laser systems and Class 1 lasers or laser systems containing embedded Class 3B or Class 4 lasers. The level of training shall be commensurate with the level of potential hazard (see Section 5 and Appendix D).

4.4.4 Authorized Personnel (Class 3B or 4 or Embedded Class 3B or 4). Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems shall be operated, maintained, or serviced only by authorized personnel. Lasers or laser systems with enclosed Class 3B or Class 4 lasers shall be maintained or serviced only by authorized personnel if such procedures would permit access to levels which exceed the Class 3R AEL.

4.4.5 Alignment Procedures (All Classes except Class 1). Laser incident reports have repeatedly shown that an ocular hazard may exist during beam alignment procedures.

Alignment of Class 2, 3R, 3B, or Class 4 laser optical systems (mirrors, lenses, beam deflectors, etc.) shall be performed in such a manner that the primary beam, or a specular or diffuse reflection of a beam, does not expose the eye to a level above the applicable MPE (see Section 4.6.2.5.2(3)).

There are many instances, such as during service, when a temporary beam attenuator placed over the beam aperture can reduce the level of accessible laser radiation to levels at or below the applicable MPE.

Written standard operating procedures (SOPs) outlining alignment methods should be approved for Class 3B and shall be approved for Class 4 lasers or laser systems. SOPs shall also be applicable for all classes of lasers or laser systems which contain embedded Class 3B or Class 4 lasers under conditions which would allow access during alignment procedures.

The use of lower power (Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3R) visible lasers for path simulation of higher power lasers is recommended for alignment of higher power Class 3B or Class 4 visible or invisible lasers and laser systems.

4.4.5.1 Alignment Procedures for Class 3B and Class 4 Lasers

Alignments should be done only by those who have received laser safety training. In addition, the following actions should be taken:

- (1) Exclude unnecessary personnel from the laser area during alignment.

- (2) Whenever possible, use low-power visible lasers for path simulation of higher-power visible or invisible lasers.
- (3) Wear protective eyewear and clothing to the extent practicable.
- (4) When aligning invisible (and in some cases visible) laser beams, use beam display devices such as image converter viewers or phosphor cards to locate beams.
- (5) Perform alignment tasks, that use high-power lasers, at the lowest possible power level.
- (6) Use a shutter or beam block to block high-power beams at their source except when actually needed during the alignment process.
- (7) Use a laser-rated beam block to terminate high-power beams down range of the optics being aligned.
- (8) Use beam blocks and/or laser protective barriers in conditions where alignment beams could stray into areas with uninvolved personnel.
- (9) Place beam blocks behind optics (e.g., turning mirrors) to terminate beams that might miss mirrors during alignment.
- (10) Locate and block all stray reflections before proceeding to the next optical component or section.
- (11) Be sure all beams and reflections are properly terminated before high-power operation.
- (12) Post appropriate area warning signs during alignment procedures where lasers are normally Class 1 (enclosed). See Section 4.3.12.

4.4.6 Spectators (Class 3B or Class 4). Spectators should not be permitted within a laser controlled area (see Sections 4.3.10 and 4.3.11) which contains a Class 3B laser or laser system and spectators shall not be permitted within a laser controlled area which contains a Class 4 laser or laser system unless:

- (1) Appropriate approval from the supervisor has been obtained;
- (2) The degree of hazard and avoidance procedure has been explained; and
- (3) Appropriate protective measures are taken.

Laser demonstrations involving the general public shall be governed by the requirements of Section 4.5.1.

4.4.7 Service Personnel (All Classes). Personnel who require access to Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems enclosed within a protective housing or protected area enclosure shall comply with the appropriate control measures of the enclosed or embedded laser or laser system. The LSO shall confirm that service personnel have the education and safety training commensurate with the class of the laser or laser system contained within the protective housing.

4.5 Special Considerations.

4.5.1 Laser Demonstrations Involving the General Public.

4.5.1.1 General. Except as noted below, only Class 1 lasers or laser systems shall be used for general public demonstration, display, or entertainment in unsupervised areas without additional requirements. The use of Class 3B or 4 lasers in an artistic, demonstration or entertainment application will typically require a laser light show variance. This variance is issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, Center for Devices and Radiological Health. For further information, please reference Code of Federal Regulations – Performance Standard for Laser Products, 21 CFR Part 1010.10 and 1040.11(c) and the regulations addressing variance from performance standards, 21 CFR Part 1010.4. Note that the CDRH has established a form for applying for a variance for Class IIb or IV laser light shows and displays. More information is available at the CDRH Internet site: http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/comp/rad_nonion_products.html.

The following special control measures shall be employed for those situations where lasers or laser systems are used for demonstration, artistic display, entertainment, or other related uses where the intended viewing group is the general public.

Such demonstrations can be, but are not limited to, trade show demonstrations, artistic light performances, planetarium laser shows, discotheque lighting, stage lighting effects, and similar special lighting effects that use lasers or laser systems emitting in the visible wavelength range (0.4 to 0.7 μm).

For outdoor artistic laser operations, ANSI Z136.6-2005 (or latest revision thereof) and FAA Order 7400.2 (or latest revision thereof) should be consulted.

The applicable MPE may be determined by using the classification duration defined as the total combined operational time of the laser during the performance or demonstration within any single period of 3×10^4 seconds.

4.5.1.2 Operational Requirements - General. The use of Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems shall be permitted only when the LSO has assured that appropriate controls are incorporated which provide for adequate protection to the general public, and under the following conditions:

- (1) When the laser operation is under the control of an experienced, trained operator as specified in Section 4.5.1.7
- (2) When the laser is operated in an unsupervised laser installation provided that a designated person, present at all times at the show or display, is responsible for the immediate termination of the laser beam(s) in the event of equipment malfunction, audience unruliness, or other unsafe conditions. For training of operators see Section 5.
- (3) When all federal, state, and local requirements for a safe operation have been met prior to the operation of the laser or laser system
- (4) When pre-show alignment and verification have been completed

4.5.1.3 Invisible Laser Emission Limitations. The general public shall not be exposed nor have access to laser radiation emission at wavelengths outside the visible range (0.4 to

0.7 μm) at levels exceeding the applicable MPEs under any reasonably foreseeable conditions of operation.

4.5.1.4 Operators and Performers. All operators, performers, and employees shall be able to perform their required functions without the need for exposure to laser radiation levels in excess of the applicable MPE.

4.5.1.5 Scanning Devices. Scanning devices, including rotating mirrored balls, shall incorporate a means to prevent laser emission if scan failure or other failure resulting in a change in either scan velocity or amplitude would result in failure to fulfill the criteria given in Sections 4.5.1.3 and 4.5.1.4.

4.5.1.6 Unsupervised Installations - Distance Requirements. If a laser demonstration using a Class 3B or Class 4 laser does not operate at all times under the direct supervision or control of an experienced, trained operator, the laser radiation levels to which access can be gained shall be limited by barriers, windows, or other means so as not to exceed the limits of the applicable MPE. This limitation applies at any point less than 6 m above any surface upon which a person in the general public is permitted to stand and to any point less than 2.5 m in lateral separation from any position where a person in the general public is permitted to be present during a performance or display (see Figure 2c).

4.5.1.7 Supervised Laser Installations. Laser demonstrations which do not meet the criteria stated in Section 4.5.1.6 (applicable to Class 3B and Class 4) shall be operated at all times under the direct supervision or control of an experienced, trained operator who shall maintain constant surveillance of the laser display and terminate the laser emission in the event of equipment malfunction, audience unruliness, or other unsafe conditions.

The operator shall have visual access to the entire area of concern. If obstacles or size preclude visual access by the operator, then multiple observers shall be used, with a communication link to the operator. In such supervised installations accessible laser radiation shall be limited by barriers, windows, or other means so as to not exceed the applicable MPE at any point unless the following requirements are met:

- (1) The accessible laser radiation is maintained a minimum distance of 3.0 m above any surface upon which the general public would be able to stand during a performance (see Figure 2d).
- (2) The accessible laser radiation is maintained a minimum distance of 2.5 m in lateral separation from any position where the general public is permitted to be present during the performance or demonstration (see Figure 2e).

As a general practice, the largest practical vertical and lateral separation distances should be employed wherever possible. However, if specific physical limitations of the space in which the lasers are to be used preclude compliance with the required minimum separations specified in (1) and (2), shorter separation distances may be utilized, provided that the LSO assures that alternative measures are established which assure an equivalent degree of protection to the general public.

4.5.1.8 Beam Termination Requirements. All laser demonstration systems (applicable to Class 3B and Class 4) shall be provided with a readily accessible means to effect immediate termination of the laser radiation. If the demonstration does not require continuous supervision or operator control during its operation, there must be a designated person at all

times at the show or display who is responsible for the immediate termination of the laser radiation in the event of equipment malfunction, audience unruliness, or other unsafe conditions.

4.5.1.9 Maximum Power Limitations. The maximum output power of the laser shall be limited to the level required to produce the desired and intended effect within the limitations outlined in Sections 4.5.1.1 through 4.5.1.8.

4.5.1.10 Posting of Warning Signs and Logos. If the laser installation fulfills all requirements as detailed in Sections 4.5.1.1 through 4.5.1.9 - or as alternatively provided by the LSO (see, for example, Section 4.5.1.7) - then posting of area warning signs shall not be required.

4.5.1.11 Federal, State, or Local Requirements. The laser operator or LSO responsible for producing the laser demonstration shall ensure that all applicable federal, state, or local requirements are satisfied.

4.5.2 Laser Optical Fiber Transmission Systems (All Classes). Laser transmission systems which employ optical cables shall be considered enclosed systems with the optical cable forming part of the enclosure. If disconnection of a connector results in accessible radiation being reduced to below the applicable MPE by engineering controls, then connection or disconnection may take place in an uncontrolled area and no other control measures are required. When the system provides access to laser radiation above the applicable MPE via a connector, the conditions given in Section 4.5.2.1 or 4.5.2.2 shall apply.

Note: The requirements and nomenclature for optical fiber systems used for telecommunications (OFCS) may differ from those pertaining to laser optical fiber transmission systems used for other purposes, e.g., optical power delivery. See ANSI Z136.2-1997 (or latest revision thereof) and IEC 60825-2 (latest revision) for requirements specific to optical fiber systems used for telecommunications.

4.5.2.1 Connection or disconnection during operation shall take place in an appropriate laser controlled area, in accordance with the requirements of Section 4.3.12, if the MPE is exceeded.

4.5.2.2 Connection or disconnection during maintenance, modification, or service shall take place in a temporary laser controlled area, in accordance with Section 4.3.12, if the MPE is exceeded. When the connection or disconnection is made by means of a connector, other than one within a secured enclosure, such a connector shall be disconnected only by the use of a tool.

Optical fibers or optical fiber cables attached to Class 3B or Class 4 lasers or laser systems shall not be disconnected prior to termination of transmission of the beam into the fiber. In this case, if laser radiation above the applicable MPE can be made accessible by disconnection of a connector, the connector shall bear a label or tag bearing the words "Hazardous Laser Radiation when Disconnected."

It is recommended that appropriate procedures be instituted to prevent inadvertent personnel exposure from an unterminated or severed fiber, such as lockout/tagout requirements at the laser source.

When the connection or disconnection is made within a secured enclosure, no tool for connector disconnection shall be required, but a warning sign appropriate to the class of laser or laser system shall be visible when the enclosure is open.

4.5.3 Laser Robotic Installations (Class 3B and Class 4). In many industrial applications Class 3B and Class 4 lasers and laser systems are used in conjunction with robots. In these situations, the robot working envelope (typically 3-6 meters) should also include the NHZ associated with the laser. In all cases where the beam is focused by a lens associated with the robotic device, appropriate laser-robotic safeguards can be assured if:

- (1) The design or control measures in combination provide for a positive beam termination during operation.
- (2) The beam geometry is limited to only the necessary work task.
- (3) All workers are located at a distance greater than or equal to the lens-on-laser NHZ value for the laser robotic system.

In many instances, including those created by hardware failure and software errors, the laser beam from robotic delivery systems can be incident on the target surface at angles that could lead to potential scattering geometries that are very complex and require extensive evaluation. Measurements are often required to confirm the NHZ boundaries.

4.6 Protective Equipment.

4.6.1 General. Enclosure of the laser equipment or beam path is the preferred method of control, since the enclosure will isolate or minimize the hazard.

When other control measures do not provide adequate means to prevent access to direct or reflected beams at levels above the MPE, it may be necessary to use personal protective equipment such as protection in the form of goggles or spectacles, barriers, windows, clothing and gloves, and other devices that have been specifically selected for suitable protection against laser radiation.

It should be noted that personal protective equipment may have serious limitations when used as the only control measure with higher-power Class 4 lasers or laser systems; the protective equipment may not adequately reduce or eliminate the hazard, and may be damaged by the incident laser radiation.

4.6.2 Protective Eyewear (Class 3B or Class 4).

4.6.2.1 Eye Protection (Class 3B or Class 4). Eye protection devices which are specifically designed for protection against radiation from Class 3B lasers or laser systems should be administratively required within the NHZ and their use enforced when engineering or other procedural and administrative controls are inadequate to eliminate potential exposure in excess of the applicable MPE.

Eye protection devices which are specifically designed for protection against radiation from Class 4 lasers or laser systems shall be administratively required and their use enforced when engineering or other procedural and administrative controls are inadequate to eliminate potential exposure in excess of the applicable MPE.

Laser protective eyewear is usually not required for Class 2 or Class 3R lasers or laser systems except in conditions where intentional long-term (> 0.25 s) direct viewing is required.

Laser protective eyewear may include goggles, face shields, spectacles, or prescription eyewear using special filter materials or reflective coatings (or a combination of both) to reduce the potential ocular exposure below the applicable MPE.

Laser protective eyewear shall be specifically selected to withstand either direct or diffusely scattered beams depending upon the anticipated circumstances of exposure. In this case, the protective filter shall exhibit a damage threshold for a specified exposure time, typically 10 seconds (see Appendix C). The eyewear shall be used in a manner so that the damage threshold is not exceeded in the “worst case” exposure scenario. Important in the selection of laser protective eyewear is the factor of flammability (see ANSI Z87.1-2003, American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices, or the latest revision thereof).

Recent studies have indicated that existing laser eye protective filters (plastic, glass, interference, or hybrid filters) often exhibit non-linear effects such as saturable absorption when exposed to ultrashort (e.g., femtosecond) pulse durations. Laser users should request test data from laser eyewear manufacturers.

4.6.2.2 UV Laser Protection. Particular care shall be taken when using UV lasers or laser systems. Thus, in addition to other laser controls which apply to all laser systems, the following requirements shall also apply. Exposure to UV radiation shall be minimized by using beam shields and clothing which attenuate the radiation to levels below the applicable MPE for the specific UV wavelengths.

Hazardous byproducts: Special attention shall be given to the possibility of producing undesirable reactions in the presence of UV radiation. For example, formation of skin sensitizing agents, ozone, LGACs, etc. (see Section 7.4). Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), shall be used when working with open beam Class 3B or Class 4 UV lasers. This shall include both eye and skin protection.

4.6.2.3 Eyewear for Protection Against Other Agents. Physical and chemical hazards to the eye can be reduced by the use of face shields, goggles, and similar protective devices. Consult American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection, ANSI Z87.1-2003 (or latest revision thereof).

4.6.2.4 Factors in Selecting Appropriate Eyewear. The following factors shall be considered in selecting the appropriate laser protective eyewear to be used:

- (1) Laser power and/or pulse energy
- (2) Wavelength(s) of laser output
- (3) Potential for multi-wavelength operation
- (4) Radiant exposure or irradiance levels for which protection (worst case) is required
- (5) Exposure time criteria (see Section 4.6.2.5.2)
- (6) Maximum permissible exposure (MPE) (see Section 8)

- (7) Optical density requirement of eyewear filters at laser output wavelength(s) (see Table 2)
- (8) Angular dependence of protection afforded
- (9) Visible light transmission requirement and assessment of the effect of the eyewear on the ability to perform tasks while wearing the eyewear
- (10) Need for side-shield protection and maximum peripheral vision requirement; side shields shall be considered and should be incorporated where appropriate
- (11) Radiant exposure or irradiance and the corresponding time factors at which laser safety filter characteristics change occurs, including transient bleaching especially for ultrashort pulse lengths
- (12) Need for prescription glasses
- (13) Comfort and fit
- (14) Degradation of filter media, such as photobleaching
- (15) Strength of materials (resistance to mechanical trauma and shock) (see ANSI Z87.1-2003, or latest revision thereof, for appropriate criteria)
- (16) Capability of the front surface to produce a hazardous specular reflection
- (17) Requirement for anti-fogging design or coatings

4.6.2.5 Optical Density.

4.6.2.5.1 Specification of Optical Density, D_λ . The optical density (attenuation), D_λ , of laser protective eyewear at a specific wavelength shall be specified. Many lasers radiate at more than one wavelength; thus eyewear designed to have an adequate D_λ for a particular wavelength could have a completely inadequate D_λ at another wavelength radiated by the same laser. This problem may become particularly serious with lasers that are tunable over broad wavelength bands. In such cases, alternative methods of eye protection, such as indirect viewing, may be more appropriate (e.g., image converters, closed circuit TV).

If the potential eye exposure level or value is given by H_p , the optical density, D_λ , required of protective eyewear to reduce this exposure to the MPE is given by

$$D_\lambda = \log_{10} (H_p / \text{MPE}) = -\log_{10} \tau_\lambda$$

where H_p is expressed in the same units as the appropriate MPE and τ_λ is the transmittance of the filter at the specific wavelength (see Section 8).

Note: When the laser beam is smaller than the limiting aperture (D_f), the value of H_p is determined by averaging the beam energy over the limiting aperture (7 mm for the 0.4 to 1.4 μm region). This is necessary since the MPE has been established (normalized) relative to the limiting aperture area. Use of the beam diameter (a) to evaluate H_p for cases where $a < D_f$ will result in excessively large D_λ specifications.

Table 4 provides values for optical density for given values of H_p/MPE . If the beam size is larger than the size of the protective eyewear, it should be noted that optical densities greater than 3 or 4 (depending upon exposure time) could reduce eye exposure below the ocular

MPE but leave the unprotected skin surrounding the eyewear exposed to values in excess of the skin MPE as specified in section 8.4.

The optical density of the protective material shall be determined for all anticipated viewing angles and wavelengths.

4.6.2.5.2 Optical Density Time Basis Criteria. The duration of intended use of the laser or laser system shall be used as the time factor upon which the MPE computation is based when computing the optical density of a filter material (see Tables 2 and 4). The following are recommendations that are applicable in determining the time factor criteria:

- (1) **Aversion Response Criteria to Visible Lasers (0.4-0.7 μm) (Class 3B or Class 4).** When long-term intrabeam exposure to visible lasers is not intended, the applicable MPE used to establish the optical density requirement for eye protection should be based on an exposure time of 0.25 second (see Section 8.2 and Table 4). This time factor is based upon the human aversion time for a bright light stimulus. Thus, this becomes the “first line of defense” for unexpected exposure to some lasers (see Section 8.2.2).
- (2) **Near infrared Criteria (Class 3B or Class 4).** When long-term exposure to point source, near infrared (0.7-1.4 μm) lasers is not intended, the applicable MPE used to establish the optical density requirement for eye protection should be based on a 10 second exposure (see Section 8.2.2). This represents a realistic “worst case” time period because natural eye motions dominate for periods longer than 10 s.
- (3) **Diffuse Viewing Criteria (Class 3B or Class 4).** When viewing an extended source or the diffuse reflection of the beam from a Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system where intermediate viewing time is intended, e.g., optical alignment procedures, the applicable MPE should be based upon the maximum viewing time which may be required during any given 8 hour period.

When long-term exposure to visible (0.4-0.7 μm) CW lasers is not specifically intended, the applicable MPE used to establish the optical density requirement for eye protection may be based on a 600-second exposure. This represents a typical “worst case” time period during tasks such as alignment and is applicable for most alignment procedures when viewing a diffusely reflecting target. In some situations where prolonged staring is anticipated, such as during surgical laser usage, even longer times should be considered, based upon actual conditions of use.

Note that if the extended source criteria (see Section 8.1) are not applicable due to a small beam size, then the exposure at the cornea from a diffuse reflector may be estimated using the inverse square law relationship, and the point source MPE criteria shall apply. In that case,

$$E = \rho \Phi \cos \theta_v / (\pi r_1^2)$$

where E is the irradiance produced at a distance r_1 (cm) from a diffuse surface, when the surface is irradiated by a laser with output Φ (watts), and where ρ is the reflection coefficient of the surface, and θ_v is the viewing angle relative to the normal to the surface.

If the angular source size exceeds α_{\min} at the distance r_1 , then the extended source criteria apply (see Section 8.1).

- (4) **Daily Occupational Exposure Criteria (Class 3B or Class 4).** The time period of 30,000 seconds represents a full one-day (8-hour) occupational exposure and is determined from the approximate number of seconds in an 8 hour period.

The exposure duration is equal to the maximum time of anticipated direct exposure, which in a 24 hour period will not exceed 30,000 seconds except for ultraviolet wavelengths where additivity may occur (see Section 8.2.3.1).

When long-term exposure to any laser is possible, the applicable MPE used to establish the optical density requirement for eye protection shall be based on a 30,000 second exposure.

4.6.2.5.3 Optical Density for Non-Laser Emissions. Eye protection shall be provided for the ultraviolet and blue-green spectral region (0.18 to 0.55 μm) for laser welding processes. On the basis of currently available data, a minimum optical density, D_λ , of 2.0-3.0 (neutral density) or welding shade 6 (see American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection, ANSI Z87.1-2003, or the latest revision thereof) is recommended for emission in the ultraviolet and blue-green spectral regions. The optical density values given above would apply for the laser induced plasma, such as that associated with typical laser welding systems. Greater optical densities are required for higher power laser welding systems.

The plasma emission optical density specified does not replace the optical density requirements for laser emission as specified in Section 4.6.2.5.1. See Section 7.2.2 for optical radiation hazards.

The luminous transmission of the protective filter that is needed to accomplish the task should be considered to allow adequate visibility without reducing the optical density (D_λ) necessary for laser protection.

4.6.2.6 Visible Transmission. Adequate optical density, D_λ , at the laser wavelength of interest shall be weighed with the need for adequate visible transmission.

4.6.2.7 Identification of Eyewear. All laser protective eyewear shall be clearly labeled with the optical density and wavelength for which protection is afforded (see Section 4.6.2.5). Color coding or other distinctive identification of laser protective eyewear is recommended in multi-laser environments.

4.6.2.8 Cleaning and Inspection. Periodic cleaning and inspection shall be made of protective eyewear to ensure the maintenance of satisfactory condition. The frequency of the safety inspection should be once per year, or as determined by the LSO. This shall include:

- (1) Periodic cleaning of laser eyewear. Care should be observed when cleaning lenses of protective eyewear to avoid damage to the absorbing and reflecting surfaces. In some uses (e.g., surgery) eyewear may require cleaning (and sterilization) after each use. Consult eyewear manufacturers for instructions for proper cleaning methods.
- (2) Inspection of the attenuation material for pitting, crazing, cracking, discoloration, etc.

- (3) Inspection of the frame for mechanical integrity.
- (4) Inspection for light leaks and coating damage.

Eyewear in suspicious condition should be tested for acceptability or discarded.

4.6.2.9 Purchasing Information for Protective Eyewear. Purchasers of laser safety protective eyewear should require that the following information accompanies each item:

- (1) Wavelength(s) and corresponding optical density for which protection is afforded;
- (2) Pertinent data such as damage threshold for laser safety purposes (see Appendix C for reference material); and
- (3) Manufacturers' recommendations on shelf life, storage conditions, cleaning and use.

4.6.3 Facility Window Protection (Class 3B or Class 4). Facility windows (exterior or interior) that are located within the NHZ of a Class 3B or Class 4 laser or laser system shall be provided with an appropriate absorbing filter, scattering filter, blocking barrier, or screen which reduces any transmitted laser radiation to levels below the applicable MPE.

Such laser windows shall be specifically selected to withstand direct and diffusely scattered beams. In this case, the window barrier shall exhibit a damage threshold for beam penetration for a specified exposure time commensurate with the total hazard evaluation for the facility and specific application (see Appendix C).

Important in the selection of the window are the factors of flammability and decomposition products of the window material. It is essential that the window not support combustion or release toxic airborne contaminants following a laser exposure.

4.6.4 Laser Protective Barriers and Curtains (Class 3B or Class 4). A blocking barrier, screen, or curtain which can block or filter the laser beam at the entryway should be used inside the controlled area to prevent the laser light from exiting the area at levels above the applicable MPE. In some cases, where the barrier does not extend completely to the ceiling or to the floor, the LSO shall conduct an NHZ analysis to assure safety is afforded to all workers outside the barrier protected area.

Laser barriers shall be specifically selected to withstand direct and diffusely scattered beams. The barrier shall exhibit a damage threshold for beam penetration for a specified exposure time commensurate with the total hazard evaluation for the facility and specific application (see Appendix C).

Important in the selection of the barrier are the factors of flammability and decomposition products of the barrier material. It is essential that the barrier not support combustion or release toxic fumes following a laser exposure.

4.6.5 Labeling of Protective Equipment (Class 3B or Class 4). All protective equipment shall be permanently labeled as specified below:

4.6.5.1 Labeling of Laser Protective Eyewear. All laser protective eyewear shall be labeled with the optical density and wavelength(s) for which protection is afforded (see Section 4.6.2.4). Color coding or other distinctive identification of laser protective eyewear is also suggested when rapid eyewear identification is needed in multi-laser environments (e.g., surgery, research labs).

4.6.5.2 Labeling of Laser Protective Windows. All laser protective windows, sold other than as an integral part of a product, shall be labeled with the optical density and wavelength(s) for which protection is afforded (see Section 4.6.2.4). Such windows should also be labeled with the exposure time for which the limit applies and the conditions under which protection is afforded.

4.6.5.3 Labeling of Collecting Optics Filters. All permanently mounted collecting optics housings containing laser protective filters sold other than as an integral part of a product shall be labeled with the optical density and wavelength(s) for which protection is afforded (see Section 4.6.2.5). All collecting optics filter housings should also be labeled with the threshold limit (TL) and exposure time for which the limit applies and the conditions under which protection is afforded.

4.6.5.4 Labeling of Laser Protective Barriers. All laser protective barriers sold other than as an integral part of a product shall be labeled with the barrier exposure time for which the limit applies and the beam exposure conditions under which protection is afforded (see Appendix C2.4).

4.6.5.5 Labeling of Laser Protective Viewports and Films. All laser protective viewports and films sold other than as an integral part of a product should be labeled with the optical density and the spectral region for which protection is afforded (see Appendix C2.3). This information shall be provided by the manufacturer.

4.6.6 Skin Protection (Class 3B or Class 4). In some laser applications, such as use of excimer lasers operating in the ultraviolet, the use of a skin cover shall be employed if chronic (repeated) exposures are anticipated at exposure levels at or near the applicable MPEs for skin.

Skin protection can best be achieved through engineering controls. If the potential exists for a damaging skin exposure, particularly for ultraviolet lasers (0.295-0.400 μm) and/or laser welding/cutting application, then skin-covers and / or “sun screen” creams are recommended. Most gloves will provide some protection against laser radiation. Tightly woven fabrics and opaque gloves provide the best protection. In some cases a laboratory jacket or coat may fulfill the requirement. For Class 4 lasers, consideration shall be given to flame-retardant materials.

For wavelengths greater than 1.4 μm , “large-area” exposures can cause heat loading — causing skin dryness and with excessive exposure, may lead to heat stress (see Section 8.4.2). In these cases, personnel exposures shall be minimized.

Chronic exposure may have long term adverse health effects which are not fully understood at this time.

4.6.7 Other Personal Protective Equipment. Respirators, additional local exhaust ventilation, fire extinguishers, and hearing protection may be required whenever engineering controls cannot provide protection from a harmful ancillary environment (see Section 7).

4.7 Area Warning Signs and Equipment Labels.

4.7.1 Design of Signs. Sign dimensions, letter size and color, etc., shall be in accordance with American National Standard Specification for Accident Prevention Signs, ANSI Z535

series. Figures 1a and 1b show sample signs for Class 2, Class 2M, Class 3R, Class 3B, and Class 4 lasers or laser systems.

4.7.2 Symbols. Two similar laser symbol designs are accepted for laser signs and labels.

4.7.2.1 Laser Symbol Design. There are two possible designs that can be used:

4.7.2.1.1 ANSI Z535 Design. The laser hazard symbol shall be a sunburst pattern consisting of two sets of radial spokes of different lengths and one long spoke, radiating from a common center. This is as specified in the ANSI Z535 series of the National Standard Specification for Accident Prevention Signs. The wording can be used for area warning signs only, or alternatively as specified in Section 4.7.3.

4.7.2.1.2 IEC 60825-1 Design. The laser hazard symbol shall be composed of an equilateral triangle surrounding a sunburst pattern consisting of two sets of radial spokes of different lengths and one spoke, radiating from a common center (see Figure 1c). This is as specified in IEC 60825-1:2001 (or latest revision thereof).

4.7.2.2 Safety Alert Symbol. A symbol which indicates a potential personal safety hazard. It is composed of an equilateral triangle surrounding an exclamation mark and conforms to ANSI Z535.3-1998 (or latest revision thereof), Criteria for Safety Symbols. The symbol is to be located to the left of the signal word on the “Danger” or “Caution” signs. It is not used on the “Notice” signs.

4.7.3 Signal-Words Laser Warning Signs—Purpose (Class 3R, Class 3B, or Class 4). The purpose of a laser area warning sign is to convey a rapid visual hazard-alerting message that:

- (1) Warns of the presence of a laser hazard in the area
- (2) Indicates specific policy in effect relative to laser controls
- (3) Indicates the severity of the hazard (e.g., class of laser, NHZ extent, etc.)
- (4) Instructs appropriate action(s) to take to avoid the hazard (eyewear requirements, etc.)

The laser warning signs shall utilize warning statements as defined in Section 5 of ANSI Z535.2-1998 (or latest revision thereof), where the signal words have the following meanings:

“DANGER” indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury. This signal word is to be limited to the most extreme conditions.

“CAUTION” indicates a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury. It may also be used to alert against unsafe practices.

“NOTICE” is used to indicate a statement of facility policy as the message relates directly or indirectly to the safety of personnel or the protection of property. This signal word shall not be associated directly with a hazard or hazardous situation and must not be used in place of “DANGER” or “CAUTION.”

The laser area warning signs shall be designed as detailed in Section 4.7 and are to be posted as detailed in Sections 4.3.10.1, 4.3.10.2 and 4.3.11.1, and summarized in Table 11.

The following signal words are used with the ANSI Z535 design laser signs and labels:

4.7.3.1 Danger. The signal word “Danger” shall be used with all signs and labels associated with all lasers and laser systems that exceed the applicable MPE for irradiance, including all Class 3R, Class 3B, and Class 4 lasers and laser systems (see Figure 1b). The OD of protective eyewear and wavelength shall be shown on the sign for a location requiring the use of eyewear.

4.7.3.2 Caution. The signal word “Caution” shall be used with all signs and labels associated with Class 2 and Class 2M lasers and laser systems, which do not exceed the applicable MPE for irradiance (see Figure 1a).

4.7.3.3 Notice. The signal word “Notice” shall be used on signs posted outside a temporary laser controlled area (see Sections 4.3.12 and 4.3.9.2), for example, during periods of service (see Figure 1d).

Note: when a temporary laser controlled area is created, the area outside the temporary area remains Class 1, while the area within is either Class 3B or Class 4 and the appropriate danger warning is also required within the temporary laser controlled area (see Figure 1b and Section 4.3.12).

4.7.4 Pertinent Sign Information. Sign information and warnings shall conform to the following specifications.

4.7.4.1 The appropriate signal word (Danger, Caution, or Notice) shall be located in the upper panel.

4.7.4.2 Adequate space shall be available on all signs to allow for the inclusion of pertinent information. Such information may be included during the printing of the sign or may be handwritten in a legible manner, and shall include the following:

- (1) At position 1 above the tail of the sunburst, special precautionary instructions or protective action that may be applicable. For example:
 - (a) Laser Protective Eyewear Required
 - (b) Invisible Laser Radiation
 - (c) Knock Before Entering
 - (d) Do Not Enter When Light is On
 - (e) Restricted Area

Note: The class-based warning descriptions given in Section 4.7.5 (1) (a-e) can alternatively be used in position 1.

- (2) At position 2 below the tail of the sunburst, the type of laser (Nd:YAG, Helium-Neon, etc.), or the emitted wavelength, pulse duration (if appropriate), and maximum output; and
- (3) At position 3, the class of the laser or laser system.

Note: The word “Radiation” on signs and labels may be replaced by the word “Light” for lasers operating in the visible range at wavelengths greater than 0.4 μm and equal to or less than 0.7 μm . For lasers operating outside of this visible range the word “Invisible” shall be placed prior to the words “Laser Radiation.”

4.7.4.3 Location of Signs. All signs shall be conspicuously displayed in locations where they best will serve to warn onlookers (see Sections 4.3.9, 4.3.10.1, 4.3.10.2, 4.3.11, and 4.3.12).

4.7.5 Pertinent Equipment Label Information. Equipment labels shall conform to the following specifications:

- (1) At position 1 above the tail of the sunburst, special precautionary instructions or protective actions required by the reader such as:
 - (a) For Class 2 lasers and laser systems, “Laser Radiation - Do Not Stare into Beam”
 - (b) For Class 2M and 3R lasers and laser systems where the accessible irradiance does not exceed the applicable MPE based upon a 0.25 s exposure for wavelengths between 0.4 and 0.7 μm (see Section 3.3.3.1), “Laser Radiation – Do Not Stare into Beam or View Directly with Optical Instruments”
 - (c) For all other Class 3R lasers and laser systems, “Laser Radiation – Avoid Direct Eye Exposure”
 - (d) For all Class 3B lasers and laser systems, “Laser Radiation – Avoid Direct Exposure to Beam”
 - (e) For Class 4 lasers and laser systems, “Laser Radiation – Avoid Eye or Skin Exposure to Direct or Scattered Radiation”

Note: Labeling of laser equipment in accordance with the Federal Laser Product Performance Standard (FLPPS) or the IEC 60825-1 standard (or latest revision thereof) may be used to satisfy the labeling requirements in this standard.

- (2) At position 2 below the tail of the sunburst, type of laser (Nd:YAG, Helium-Neon, etc.), or the emitted wavelength, pulse duration (if appropriate), and maximum output; and
- (3) At position 3, the class of the laser or laser system.

4.7.5.1 Location of Equipment Labels. All equipment warning labels shall be conspicuously displayed in locations on the equipment where they best will serve to warn onlookers (see Section 4.3.14).

4.7.6. Existing Signs and Labels. Signs and labels prepared in accordance with previous revisions of this standard are considered to fulfill the requirement of the standard.

5. Education and Training

5.1 General.

Training shall be provided to each LSO and employee routinely working with or potentially exposed to Class 3B or Class 4 laser radiation. Training should be provided to employees working with or potentially exposed to Class 1M, Class 2, Class 2M or Class 3R laser radiation (see Appendix D). The level of training shall be commensurate with the degree of

potential laser hazards, both from the laser radiation and non-beam hazards. The course topics selected from Appendix D, and the depth and skill level of content, shall largely be determined based on the results from a complete hazard evaluation as detailed in Section 3.

The employer should address the recommendations in Appendix D when determining the requirements for a laser safety training program. The laser safety program includes provisions for training the Laser Safety Officer (LSO) and users.

5.2 Refresher Training.

The employer shall address the needs for maintaining the appropriate level of laser safety proficiency through the use of periodic training.

The implementation and frequency of refresher training shall be considered on the basis of the total hazard evaluation criteria presented in Section 3 of this standard. The evaluation of personnel working with lasers and the amount of time they spend working with lasers are equally important considerations as the potential hazards from a laser. Occasional work with lasers may be a stronger justification for refresher or more frequent laser safety training than working daily with lasers, because the user's degree of familiarity is usually less with occasional work with lasers or laser systems. The level of education of the user is another major point for consideration.

Refresher training may be an abbreviated version of the original training, or it may simply be a generic overview of laser safety. Whatever form refresher training takes, the end result should be that the users have the necessary laser safety awareness and knowledge to continue to work safely with their lasers.

5.3 Trainer Qualifications.

Education and training programs shall be conducted by individuals with training skills adequate and appropriate to the subject matter being taught. For example, this would include, but not be limited to: knowledge of lasers, laser safety concepts, and laser safety standards.

Note: Experience has shown that the important factors are experience with lasers, good presentation skills, and a thorough knowledge of the applicable standards.

5.4 LSO Training.

Management (employer) shall provide for LSO training on the potential hazards (including bioeffects), control measures, applicable standards, medical surveillance (if applicable) and any other pertinent information pertaining to laser safety and applicable standards, or provide to the LSO adequate consultative services. The training shall be commensurate to at least the highest class of laser under the jurisdiction of the LSO. The training shall also include consideration for the evaluation and control of any non-beam hazards associated with the lasers and the laser systems under the jurisdiction of the LSO.

5.5 User Training.

Laser safety training shall be provided to the users of Class 3B or Class 4 lasers and laser systems. Laser safety training should be provided to users of Class 1M, Class 2, Class 2M and Class 3R lasers. Laser safety training shall include warnings against the misuse of lasers.

Users shall include operators, technicians, engineers, maintenance and service personnel, and any other persons working with or potentially exposed to laser radiation in excess of Class 1. The training shall ensure that the users are knowledgeable of the potential hazards and the control measures for laser equipment they may have occasion to use. All training shall be commensurate with the greatest potential for hazards associated with each laser operation, and shall be consistent with the results of the completed hazard evaluation as performed in accordance with Section 3 of this standard, which considers the laser, the environment, and the personnel.

Where appropriate, training shall include cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and safety procedures for applicable non-beam hazards associated with laser systems in use.

6. Medical Examinations

6.1 Examinations Following a Suspected or Actual Laser-Induced Injury.

Medical examinations shall be performed as soon as practical (usually within 48 hours) when a suspected injury or adverse effect from a laser exposure occurs. In addition to the acute symptoms, consideration shall be given to the exposure wavelength, emission characteristics and exposure situation to assure appropriate medical referral. See Appendix E for recommended examination protocol commensurate with the observed symptoms and laser system. For injury to the eye from lasers operating in the retinal hazard region, examinations shall be performed by an ophthalmologist.

6.2 Medical Surveillance.

The rationale for medical surveillance requirements for personnel working in a laser environment and specific information of value to examining or attending physicians are included in Appendix E. Medical surveillance should be limited to those who are clearly known to be at risk from particular kinds of laser radiation. Medical laser surveillance is not recommended for personnel using Class 1, Class 1M, Class 2, Class 2M or Class 3R lasers and laser systems as defined in Section 3.3, and should be required for Class 3B and Class 4 lasers and laser systems. Some employers may wish to provide their employees with additional examinations for medical-legal reasons, to conform to established principles of what constitutes a thorough ophthalmologic or dermatologic examination, or as part of a planned epidemiologic study. Further information is provided in Appendix E.

6.2.1 Personnel Categories. Each employee's category shall be determined by the LSO in charge of the installation involved. The individuals who should be under laser medical surveillance are defined in Sections 6.2.2 and 6.2.3.

6.2.2 Incidental Personnel. Incidental personnel are those whose work makes it possible (but unlikely) that they will be exposed to laser energy sufficient to damage their eyes or skin, e.g., custodial, military personnel on maneuvers, clerical, and supervisory personnel not working directly with laser devices.

6.2.3 Laser Personnel. Laser personnel are those who work routinely in laser environments. These individuals are ordinarily fully protected by engineering controls or administrative procedures, or both.

6.3 General Procedures.

6.3.1 Incidental personnel should have an eye examination for visual acuity (see Appendix E for further details).

6.3.2 Laser personnel should be subject to the following baseline eye examination:

Ocular history (see Appendix E3.2.1). If the ocular history shows no problems and visual acuity (see Appendix E3.2.2) is found to be 20/20 (6/6 in each eye for far and near) with corrections (whether worn or not), and Amsler Grid Test (see Appendix E3.2.3) and Color Vision (see Appendix E3.2.4) responses are normal, no further examination is required. Laser workers with medical conditions noted in Appendix E3.2.1 should be evaluated carefully with respect to the potential for chronic exposure to laser radiation. Any deviations from acceptable performance will require an identification of the underlying pathology either by a fundusoscopic examination (see Appendix E3.2.5), or other tests as determined appropriate by the responsible medical or optometric examiner.

6.4 Frequency of Medical Examinations.

For both incidental and laser personnel, required examinations should be performed prior to participation in laser work. Following any suspected laser injury, the pertinent required examinations will be repeated, in addition to whatever other examinations may be desired by the attending physician. Periodic examinations are not required.

7. Non-Beam Hazards

7.1 General.

It is important to address hazards associated with the use of lasers not related to exposure of the eye and skin to the laser beam. Non-beam hazards are a class of hazards that do not result from direct human exposure to a laser beam.

Non-beam hazards include physical, chemical, and biological agents. Non-beam hazards may occur when a material is exposed to a laser beam (e.g., fire or airborne contaminants); when materials used to generate the beam (e.g., flow-through gases, dyes and solvents) are released into the atmosphere; or when individuals contact system components (e.g., shock or electrocution).

In some cases, these hazards can be life threatening (e.g., electrocution). As a result, the hazards discussed in this section require use of control measures different from those discussed in Section 4. Also, all written SOPs shall address non-beam hazards as well as beam hazards.

Because of the diversity of non-beam hazards, the LSO may employ safety and/or industrial hygiene personnel to effect evaluations. Appendix F provides additional background material and references on non-beam hazards to assist the LSO in recognizing potential hazards.

7.2 Physical Agents.

7.2.1 Electrical Hazards. Electrical equipment in general presents three potential hazards: shock, resistive heating, and ignition of flammable materials.

7.2.1.1 Shock. The use of lasers or laser systems can present an electric shock hazard. This may occur from contact with energized electrical conductors contained in device control systems, power supplies, and other devices that operate at potentials of 50 volts and above. These exposures can occur during laser set up or installation, maintenance, modification, and service, where equipment protective covers are often removed to allow access to active components as required for those activities. Those exposed can be equipment installers, users, technicians, and uninformed members of the public, such as passers by.

The effect upon those who accidentally come into contact with energized conductors at or above 50 volts can range from a minor “tingle,” to startle reaction, to serious personal injury, or death. Current pathways depend on complex parameters, so electric shock occurrence and outcome are difficult to predict. Electric shock is a very serious opportunistic hazard, and loss of life has occurred during electrical servicing and testing of laser equipment incorporating high-voltage power supplies.

Protection against accidental contact with energized conductors by means of a barrier system is the primary methodology to prevent electric shock accidents with laser equipment. Hazard warnings and safety instructions extend the safety system to embody exposures caused by conditions of use, maintenance, and service, and provide protection against the hazards of possible equipment misuse. It is recommended that electrical surge protection be provided to minimize transients, spikes, harmonics, outage, and electromagnetic interference (EMI).

7.2.1.2 Resistive Heating. Heating of a conductor due to electric current flow increases with the conductor’s resistance. Unchecked and increasing resistive heating can produce excessive heat build up and potentially damage/corrode system components. While laser system designers generally provide sufficient cooling for routine operations, it is important that this equipment be regularly checked for excessive resistive heating symptoms such as component warping, discoloration, or corrosion, and repaired as needed.

7.2.1.3 Electric Spark Ignition of Flammable Materials. Equipment malfunctions can lead to electrical fires. In addition, electrical sparks can serve as an ignition source in the presence of a flammable vapor.

7.2.1.4 Electrical Hazard Control Measures. Additional electrical safety requirements are imposed upon laser devices, systems, and those who work with them, by the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the National

Electrical Code (NFPA 70), and related state and local laws and regulations. These requirements govern equipment connection to the electrical utilization system, electrical protection parameters, and specific safety training. These requirements must be observed with all laser installations. In addition, it is recommended that fire extinguishers designed for electrical fires be used with laser systems. A “Panic Button” as described in Section 4 can also serve to eliminate or minimize electrical hazards in an emergency if the button cuts power to the system.

The following potential electrical problems have frequently been identified during laser facility audits:

- (1) Uncovered and improperly insulated electrical terminals
- (2) Hidden “power-up” warning lights
- (3) Lack of personnel trained in current cardiopulmonary resuscitation practices, or lack of refresher training (see Section 5.2)
- (4) “Buddy system” or equivalent safety measure not being practiced during maintenance and service
- (5) Failure to properly discharge and ground capacitors
- (6) Non earth-grounded or improperly grounded laser equipment
- (7) Non-adherence to the OSHA lock-out standard (29 CFR 1910.147)
- (8) Excessive wires and cables on floor that create fall or slip hazards

7.2.2 Collateral and Plasma Radiation. Collateral radiation is radiation other than that associated with the primary laser beam and is produced by system components such as power supplies, discharge lamps and plasma tubes. Such radiation may take the form of x-radiation, UV, visible, IR, microwave and radio-frequency (RF) radiation.

Plasma radiation is generated when an energetic laser beam interacts with matter, typically metals. This occurs when high power pulsed laser beams (peak irradiance of the order of $10^{12} \text{ W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$) are focused on a target.

7.2.2.1 Collateral Radiation.

7.2.2.1.1 Radiation. X-radiation may be generated by electronic components of the laser system, e.g., high-voltage vacuum tubes (usually greater than 15 kV) and from laser-metal induced plasmas. The characteristics and intensity of x-radiation emanating from laser power supplies and components therein should be investigated. Additional radiation such as neutrons and high energy X-rays can be emitted by targets exposed to high irradiance beam interactions. All generated radiation (intentional or not) should be controlled in accordance with the provisions listed in applicable federal, state, or local codes and regulations.

7.2.2.1.2 Ultraviolet (UV) and Visible Radiation. Collateral UV emitted from laser discharge tubes and pump lamps shall be suitably shielded so that personnel exposures are maintained within exposure limits specified by the ACGIH (see latest version of Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices). UV radiation may cause photodermatitis or photokeratitis. Photosensitizing agents from industrial chemicals or medications can make an individual more susceptible to those

effects. See Appendix E for representative list of such agents. The presence of UV radiation at short wavelengths may produce ozone that will need to be exhausted.

7.2.2.1.3 Electric, Magnetic and Electromagnetic Fields. Power supplies and other electrical equipment associated with some lasers are capable of generating intense power frequency electric and magnetic fields (50 or 60 Hz and harmonics). MPEs for exposure to such fields at frequencies below 3 kHz are found in the latest version of the IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields, 0 to 3 kHz (C95.6-2002). Some lasers contain radio frequency (RF) excited components, e.g., plasma tubes and Q-switches. MPEs for RF exposure are found in the latest version of the IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz (C95.1-2005); guidance for an RF safety program can be found in the IEEE Recommended Practice for Radio Frequency Safety Programs (C95.7-2005); appropriate RF warning signs and labels can be found in IEEE Standard for Radio-Frequency Energy and Current-Flow Symbols (C95.2-1999) (or latest revisions thereof).

7.2.2.2 Plasma Radiation. Plasma emissions created during laser-material interaction processes may contain sufficient UV and blue light (0.18 to 0.55 μm) to raise concern about long-term ocular viewing without protection. Studies have shown that the integrated blue-light irradiance levels are much higher for CO₂ than for Nd:YAG lasers. Also, welding events yield higher plume radiation levels than cutting events (see references in Appendix F).

7.2.3 Fire Hazards. Class 4 laser beams represent a fire hazard. Enclosure of Class 4 laser beams can result in potential fire hazards if enclosure materials are likely to be exposed to irradiances exceeding 10 W·cm⁻² or beam powers exceeding 0.5 W. (*Note: The National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) states that for CW lasers 0.5 W·cm⁻² is a possible ignition hazard.*) Under some situations where flammable compounds or substances exist, it is possible that fires can be initiated by Class 3B lasers. The LSO should encourage the use of flame retardant materials wherever applicable with all laser applications.

Opaque laser barriers, e.g., curtains, can be used to block the laser beam from exiting the work area during certain operations (see Section 4.6). While these barriers can be designed to offer a range of protection, they normally cannot withstand high irradiance levels for more than a few seconds without some damage, e.g., production of smoke, open fire, or penetration. Users of commercially available laser barriers should obtain appropriate fire prevention information from the manufacturer. Users can also refer to NFPA Code #115 for further information on controlling laser induced fires.

Operators of Class 4 lasers should be aware of the ability of unprotected wire insulation and plastic tubing to catch on fire from intense reflected or scattered beams, particularly from lasers operating at invisible wavelengths.

7.2.4 Explosion Hazards. High-pressure arc lamps, filament lamps, and capacitor banks in laser equipment shall be enclosed in housings which can withstand the maximum explosive pressure resulting from component disintegration. The laser target and elements of the optical train which may shatter during laser operation shall also be enclosed or equivalently protected to prevent injury to operators and observers. Explosive reactions of chemical laser reactants or other laser gases may be a concern in some cases.

There have been several reports of explosions caused by the ignition of dust that has collected in ventilation systems serving laser processes. The potential for such can be greatly minimized by good maintenance practice.

7.2.5 Mechanical Hazards Associated with Robotics. In many industrial applications lasers are employed in conjunction with robots. Robots can punch holes in protective housing, damage the beam delivery system, and cause a laser beam to be aimed at operators or enclosures. In addition to such hazards, the mechanical safety of the robot installation must be carefully considered.

A number of accidents have occurred where a worker has been pinned between a robot and a confining object (“pinch effect”). The LSO should ensure that control measures to prevent these types of accidents are in place. These control measures may include the use of surface interlock mats, interlocked light curtains, or non-rigid walls and barriers. The installation should conform to recommendations contained in the latest version of ANSI/RIA R15.06 Standard for Industrial Robots and Robot Systems-Safety Requirements (or latest revision thereof).

7.2.6 Noise. Noise levels from certain lasers, such as pulsed excimers, and their work environment, may be of such intensity that noise control may be necessary. Consult the US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration Regulations and the ACGIH TLVs.

7.3 Chemical Agents.

These include laser generated airborne contaminants, compressed gases, dyes and solvents, and assist gases.

7.3.1 Laser generated Air Contaminants (LGAC). Air contaminants may be generated when certain Class 3B and Class 4 laser beams interact with matter. The quantity, composition, and chemical complexity of the LGAC depend greatly upon target material, cover gas, and the beam irradiance. The LSO shall ensure that industrial hygiene aspects of exposure to LGAC are addressed and that appropriate control measures are effected.

While it is difficult to predict what LGAC may be released in any given interaction situation, it is known that contaminants, including a wide variety of new compounds, can be produced with many types of lasers. When the target irradiance reaches a given threshold, approximately $10^7 \text{ W} \cdot \text{cm}^{-2}$ (see Table F1(a) in Appendix F), target materials including plastics, composites, metals, and tissues may liberate carcinogenic, toxic and noxious airborne contaminants. The amount of the LGAC may be greater for lasers that have most of their energy absorbed at the surface of the material.

Such compounds may be gaseous or particulate and can, under certain conditions, pose occupational concern (see Appendix F for a compilation of some LGAC).

Special optical materials used for far infrared windows and lenses have been the source of potentially hazardous levels of airborne contaminants. For example, calcium telluride and zinc telluride will burn in the presence of oxygen when beam irradiance limits are exceeded. Exposure to cadmium oxide, tellurium, and tellurium hexafluoride should also be controlled.

The LSO shall ensure that appropriate industrial hygiene characterizations of exposure to LGAC are effected in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local requirements. Exposure criteria are included in 29 CFR 1910 Subpart Z and The Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices (or latest version thereof) by the ACGIH. The LSO should refer to any Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from the manufacturer of the laser system, laser machine or target material. This may provide some useful information, but many MSDS contain little information on the biological effects of decomposition products and/or LGAC. After characterization of the contaminant, it may be necessary for the LSO to effect appropriate control methods

7.3.2 Compressed Gases. Presently many hazardous gases are used in lasers and laser applications including chlorine, fluorine, hydrogen chloride, and hydrogen fluoride. All compressed gases having a hazardous material information system (HMIS) health, flammability, or reactivity rating of 3 or 4 shall be contained in an approved and appropriately exhausted gas cabinet that is alarmed with sensors to indicate potential leakage conditions. Standard operating procedures shall be developed for safely handling compressed gases. Some safety problems that occur with compressed gases are:

- (1) Working with a free-standing cylinder not isolated from personnel
- (2) Failure to protect open cylinders (regulator disconnected) from atmosphere and contaminants
- (3) No remote shutoff valve or provisions for purging gas before disconnect or reconnect
- (4) Labeled hazardous gas cylinders not maintained in appropriate exhausted enclosures
- (5) Gases of different categories (toxic, corrosive, flammable, oxidizer, inert, high pressure, and cryogenic) not stored separately in accordance with OSHA and Compressed Gas Association requirements

7.3.3 Laser Dyes and Solvents. Laser dyes are complex fluorescent organic compounds which, when in solution with certain solvents, form a lasing medium for dye lasers. Certain dyes are highly toxic or carcinogenic. Since these dyes frequently need to be changed, special care must be taken when handling them to prepare solutions from them, and operating dye lasers. An MSDS for dye compounds shall be available to all appropriate workers.

The use of dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) as a solvent for cyanine dyes in dye lasers should be discontinued if possible. DMSO aids in the transport of dyes through the skin and into the blood stream. If another solvent cannot be found, low permeability gloves should be worn by personnel any time a situation arises where contact with the solvent may occur.

Dye lasers containing at least 100 milliliters of flammable liquids shall be in conformance with the provisions of the NFPA (NFPA 30 and 45), and the NEC (Article 500 - Hazardous (classified) Locations). Laser dyes shall be prepared in a laboratory fume hood. Dye pumps and reservoirs should be placed in secondary containment vessels to minimize leakage and spills in conformance with NFPA 115.

7.3.4 Assist Gases. These gases may be used to produce an inert atmosphere, to remove material from the beam-interaction site, and to minimize deposition on components (e.g., mirrors or lenses). Assist gases have been shown to appear in types of LGAC and the spectral distribution of plasma radiation.

7.3.5 Control Measures. In general there are three major control measures available to reduce the concentration of chemical agents to acceptable levels. They are exhaust ventilation, respiratory protection, and isolation of the process. The priority of control requires that engineering controls be used as the primary control measure, with respiratory protection (and other forms of PPE) used as supplementary controls.

7.3.5.1 Exhaust Ventilation. Recirculation of LGAC should be avoided wherever possible. Exhaust ventilation shall be used to ensure that all personnel exposures to hazardous concentrations of LGAC are maintained at or below the allowable levels specified by OSHA, NIOSH, ACGIH, or other applicable authorities.

Whenever possible, enclosing hoods should be used to control LGAC. Enclosing hoods afford better control with lower air volumes than exterior hoods, are less susceptible to drafts, and may provide protection from reflected and scattered radiation.

Exhaust ventilation systems (including hoods, ducts, air cleaners, and fans) should be designed in accordance with recommendations in the latest revision of Industrial Ventilation (ACGIH) and Fundamentals Governing the Design and Operation of Local Exhaust Systems, ANSI Z9.2 (or latest revision thereof).

7.3.5.2 Respiratory Protection. Respiratory protection may be used to control brief exposures, or as an interim control measure until other engineering or administrative controls are implemented. If respiratory protection is utilized, the program shall comply with the provisions specified by the US Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (29 CFR 1910.134) (or latest revision thereof).

7.3.6 Process Isolation. The laser process may be isolated by physical barriers, master-slave manipulators, or remote control apparatus. Process isolation should be used with laser welding or cutting of targets such as plastics, biological material, coated metals, and composite substrates. In addition, during biomedical applications the work area and personal protective equipment shall be disinfected or sterilized immediately after use.

7.3.7 Sensors and Alarms. Sensors shall be installed in hazardous gas cabinets and other locations as appropriate, including exhaust ventilation ducts. Exhaust ductwork should be of rigid construction, especially for hazardous gases.

Sensors and associated alarm systems should be used for toxic and corrosive chemical agents such as halogen gases. Sensors should always be able to detect the hazardous gas in a mixture of emitted gases, i.e., fluorine versus hydrogen fluoride. Gas detection systems must be properly shielded to minimize susceptibility to electromagnetic interference (EMI).

7.4 Biological Agents.

These include LGAC and infectious materials. LGAC may be generated when high power laser beams interact with tissue. Infectious materials, such as bacteria and viral organisms, may survive beam irradiation and become airborne. For more information, see Appendix F and ANSI Z136.3-2005 (or latest revision thereof).

7.5 Human Factors.

7.5.1 Ergonomics. The LSO shall be aware of hazards created by neglecting ergonomic principles in laser system designs, such as poor workstation layout, worker-machine interface, manual handling techniques, and area illumination. Painful arm, hand, and wrist injuries (e.g., carpal tunnel syndrome) may result from repetitive motions occurring during the use of some laser products.

Recently, ergo-ophthalmological issues such as glare, startle reactions, afterimages and temporary flash blindness have been reported in the laser environment as distractions that lead to other primary or secondary effects of a more serious biological nature. The LSO should be aware that these types of ergo-ophthalmologic issues may create visual distractions in the workplace. While these types of low-level acute distractions can occur and need to be noted, they are not presently considered in this standard.

7.5.2 Limited Work Space. There is limited work space or area in many laser system installations. Such limited work space can present a problem while working near or around mechanical (e.g., robotics; see Section 7.2.5) or high voltage equipment (see the National Electric Code, Section 110-16). There must be sufficient room for personnel to turn around and maneuver freely (see OSHA 29 CFR 1910). This issue is further compounded when more than one type of laser is being operated at the same time. Audits have also shown that the presence of wires and cables on the floor of limited work areas can and do create trip and slip hazards. Whenever lasers or laser systems are used in limited work space, local exhaust, mechanical ventilation and respiratory protection shall be used if LGACs are present.

7.5.3 Work Patterns. Swing and third shift work patterns have been shown to affect worker alertness, as well as extended or excessive work hours, and hence safety compliance.

7.5.4 Laser and Laser Waste Disposal.

7.5.4.1 Laser Disposal. There are three basic ways to dispose of lasers that are no longer being used. The first method is to give/donate the laser to an organization that can use it. Such organizations might be schools, industrial companies, hospitals, etc. The donor should assure that the equipment being given complies with all applicable product safety standards, such as the FLPPS, and is provided with adequate safety instructions for operations and maintenance. The donor should ensure that the laser will be used by individuals who are trained in laser safety. Another approach would be to return the laser to the manufacturer for credit onto a new laser if applicable.

The second method is to eliminate the possibility of activating the laser by removing all means by which it can be electrically activated. Once this has happened the laser could then be disposed.

The third method would be to destroy the laser. The last two methods could have some land fill restrictions due to the possibility of hazardous materials being found inside the laser components, such as mercury switches, oils, and other chemicals.

7.5.4.2 Laser Waste Disposal. Proper waste disposal of contaminated laser-related material, such as flue and smoke filters, organic dyes, and solvent solutions shall be handled in conformance with appropriate federal, state, and local guidelines.

7.5.5 Chillers. Lasers can produce as much as 2-1000 watts of heat for every watt of optical power generated. In order to control this heat, laser manufacturers design laser systems to be conductivity-cooled, air-cooled, or cooled with a closed loop chiller. A chiller is a system designed to remove a certain heat load at a given temperature. It is recommended that users consult the manufacturer to obtain information on cooling approaches before activating the laser. If cooled water is used to aid in reducing heat loads, it may be useful to filter the incoming water to ensure that minerals and particulate matter are removed to minimize damage to equipment.

8. Criteria for Exposures of Eye and Skin

Maximum permissible exposures (MPEs) are below known hazardous levels. Appendix G provides reference material on biological effects. Exposure to levels at the MPE may be uncomfortable to view or feel upon the skin. Thus, it is good practice to maintain exposure levels sufficiently below the MPE to avoid discomfort. Distractions from the laser beam, such as flashblindness, glare, and startle, which can create secondary hazards, have become an increasing concern. These low-level effects are not covered in this standard, but are covered for nighttime use in FAA Order 7400.2 (or latest revision thereof) and in the ANSI Z136.6-2005 Standard for the Safe Use of Lasers Outdoors (or latest revision thereof).

The MPEs are expressed (normalized) relative to the limiting aperture area and, therefore, a limiting aperture or cone angle shall be used for measurements or calculations with all MPEs. The limiting aperture is the maximum circular area over which irradiance and radiant exposure can be averaged. (See Sections 3 and 9 for selection and application of the appropriate aperture or cone angle. See Section 8.2.3 for repeated exposures.)

The irradiance values for the MPEs in Tables 5a and 5b can be obtained by dividing the radiant exposure by the exposure duration, t , in seconds. Values for the radiant exposure can be obtained by multiplying the irradiance by the exposure duration, t , in seconds. For photochemical effects, the MPEs are provided in Table 5b as radiance or integrated radiance. See Section 9.1, Tables 8a and 8b, Appendix B7.2 and Figure B10 for limiting apertures and cone angles.

8.1 Ocular Exposures From Point Sources and Extended Sources.

For the purpose of this standard, within the retinal hazard region (0.4 to 1.4 μm) sources are considered either point or extended. Point sources subtend a visual angle less than or equal to α_{\min} (1.5 mrad). Viewing a laser from within a collimated beam produces a small (20-30 μm) or nearly diffraction limited retinal image, which will be nearly a “point source.” Point source MPEs are listed in Table 5a. These MPEs in the wavelength range of 0.4 μm to 0.6 μm are based on both thermal and photochemical effects to the retina. The computed time, T_1 , separates which effect is dominant for a particular wavelength. Extended sources subtend an angle greater than α_{\min} . The MPEs for extended sources are listed in Table 5b. Instead of using a computed time, T_1 as in Table 5a, both the thermal and photochemical MPEs in the wavelength range of 0.4 μm to 0.6 μm must be computed to determine which produces the lower MPE. For thermal effects the extended source correction factor C_E is

used to modify the point source MPEs for exposures less than or equal to 10 s. (See Section 2 and Table 6 for definition of C_E). For photochemical effects C_E does not apply and the MPE is provided in Table 5b as radiance or integrated radiance averaged over a limiting cone angle γ . See Section 9.2.1.1, Appendix B7.2 and Figure B10.

Non-uniform sources such as laser arrays, multiple diode lasers, or non-uniform diffuse reflections require special considerations if the source subtends an angle greater than α_{\min} . For non-circular sources, the effective diameter is determined as the arithmetic mean of the two dimensions (average dimension). When computing this average value, dimensions less than α_{\min} are set equal to α_{\min} , and values greater than α_{\max} are set equal to α_{\max} . For circular sources, the angular subtense is based on an effective Gaussian image at $1/e$ of peak irradiance points. In addition, laser energy not contained within a cone defined by α_{\max} , centered on the source of laser emission, is not considered as contributing to the retinal exposure. (The MPE for sources larger than α_{\max} are based on retinal irradiance or retinal radiant exposure.)

Each independent subsource of the extended source shall be considered as a separate source and the results compared with the MPE based on the source size of the separate source. Then the entire source (or any combination of subsources) shall be considered as a single source and the MPE shall be based on the size of the combination of subsources. Combinations of sources whose centers are separated by an angle greater than α_{\max} (100 mrad) are considered independent.

Note: The angular subtense is not the divergence of the source. It is the apparent visual angle as calculated from the source size and distance from the eye. The limiting angular subtense, α_{\min} , is that apparent visual angle which divides point source viewing from extended source viewing (see Appendix B3.5).

8.2 MPE for Ocular Exposures.

The single-pulse or single-exposure MPEs for ocular exposures are given in Tables 5a and 5b. In order to apply these MPE values, the information in the remainder of this Section is required (see Section 8.3 for special qualifications of use; see also Figures 3, 4, 5, and 9).

When a laser emits radiation at several widely different wavelengths or where pulses are superimposed on a CW background, the calculation of the MPE is complex. The effects of simultaneous exposure to pulsed and CW laser radiation can act synergistically. Caution should be used in these exposure situations until more data are available.

8.2.1 Wavelength. The wavelength (λ) must be specified to establish which spectral region is applicable. The MPEs in Tables 5a and 5b are arranged in broad wavelength regions expressed in micrometers (μm). For multiple wavelength laser emissions, the MPE must first be determined for each wavelength separately. Exposures from several wavelengths in the same time domain are additive on a proportional basis of spectral effectiveness with due allowance for all correction factors. In the ultraviolet region, special considerations may apply for multiple exposures (see Section 8.2.3.1).

8.2.2 Exposure Duration. For single-pulse lasers, the exposure duration is equal to the pulse duration t , defined at its half-power points.

When laser pulses are superimposed on a CW background, both thermal and photochemical exposure limits must be calculated separately and the exposure within any exposure duration T must not exceed the MPE for time T (see Appendix B3.3, Examples 10-16).

For non-visible wavelengths ($\lambda < 0.4 \mu\text{m}$ and $\lambda > 0.7 \mu\text{m}$), the CW exposure duration is the maximum time of anticipated direct exposure, T_{max} . For the hazard evaluation of retinal exposures in the near infrared ($0.7 - 1.4 \mu\text{m}$) a T_{max} of 10 s (T_2 for extended sources) provides an adequate hazard criterion for either incidental viewing or purposeful staring conditions. In this case, eye movements provide a natural exposure limitation, eliminating the need for calculations based on exposure durations greater than 10 s, except for unusual viewing conditions. In special applications, such as health care or experimental conditions, longer exposure durations may be appropriate (see Section 8.3).

The MPEs for single-pulse exposures between 10^{-13} and 10^{-9} seconds, at $0.4 \mu\text{m} - 1.4 \mu\text{m}$ are listed in Tables 5a and 5b. Exposure limits for pulse durations less than 100 fs are not provided for the retinal hazard region ($0.4 \mu\text{m} < \lambda < 1.4 \mu\text{m}$) and for all pulse durations less than 1 ns outside this spectral region because of a lack of biological data. For pulse durations less than 100 fs in the retinal hazard region ($0.4 \mu\text{m} < \lambda < 1.4 \mu\text{m}$), it is recommended that the peak irradiance be limited to the MPEs applicable to 100 fs pulses. For pulse durations less than 1 ns outside of the retinal hazard region ($\lambda < 0.4 \mu\text{m}$ and $\lambda > 1.4 \mu\text{m}$) it is recommended that the peak irradiance be limited to the MPEs applicable to 1 ns pulses.

For a CW or multiple-pulsed visible ($0.4 - 0.7 \mu\text{m}$) laser, the exposure duration is the maximum time of anticipated exposure, T_{max} . If purposeful staring into the beam is not intended or anticipated, the aversion response time, 0.25 s, may be used.

Note: For a CW laser under these conditions the MPE can be rounded to $2.6 \text{ mW}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$.

8.2.3 Repeated Exposures. For repetitive-pulse lasers, no single pulse in the train can exceed the single-pulse MPE. The radiant exposure from a modulated output or from a group of pulses of duration T shall not exceed the MPE applicable to a single unmodulated exposure of time T . The total exposure duration T_{max} of the train of pulses is determined in the same manner as for CW laser exposures.

Rule 1: Single-Pulse MPE. The exposure from any single pulse in a train of pulses shall not exceed the MPE for a single pulse of that pulse duration. (Rule 1 protects against thermal injury from any single pulse having greater than average energy.)

Rule 2: Average Power MPE for Thermal and Photochemical Hazards. The exposure from any group of pulses (or sub-group of pulses in a train) delivered in time T shall not exceed the MPE for time T . That is, the total radiant exposure of all pulses within any part of the train shall not exceed the MPE for the duration of that part. Depending upon the complexity of the pulse train, the calculation of several potential MPEs (for different pulse groupings) may be required. The calculation of Rule 2 usually provides a lower MPE for lasers with a high duty cycle than by applying Rule 3 below. (Rule 2 protects against cumulative injury from photochemical damage mechanisms and also against heat buildup from average power for thermal injury.)

Rule 3: Multiple-pulse MPE for Thermal Hazards. The exposure for any single pulse ($t < 0.25 \text{ sec}$) or group of pulses ($T < 0.25 \text{ sec}$) (each separated by at least t_{min}) shall not exceed the single-pulse MPE (for $t \geq t_{\text{min}}$) multiplied by a multiple-pulse correction factor C_p .

The multiple-pulse correction factor C_p is $n^{-0.25}$, where n is the number of pulses (see Figure 13 for a graphical representation of $n^{-0.25}$). Rule 3 applies only to MPEs for thermal injury, where all pulses delivered in less than t_{\min} are treated as a single pulse. (Rule 3 protects against sub-threshold pulse-cumulative thermal injury.) For individual pulses or groups of pulses, either delivered within a time frame less than t_{\min} , or when the inter-pulse spacing between pulses or pulse groups is less than t_{\min} , these pulse structures are treated as a single pulse in applying this rule. When all separations between pulses are less than t_{\min} during the exposure duration, T_{\max} , no C_p is necessary since the exposure is treated as CW for this rule.

Note: For repetition rates which are so high that multiple pulses occur in a time frame less than t_{\min} , pulse energies delivered within those time frames are summed directly. It is assumed that the energy within t_{\min} acts as if it were delivered in a single pulse.

The methods of applying the three rules for determining the MPEs for repetitive laser exposures for specific spectral bands and determination of t_{\min} are given in 8.2.3.1 to 8.2.3.3. See 8.2.3.3 for proper apertures to use with each rule.

8.2.3.1 Repeated Exposures, Ultraviolet (0.180 to 0.400 μm) – Special Considerations. Photochemical effects generally are dominant in this spectral region, but dual limits do exist. The Rules from 8.2.3 are used to find those limits. Rules 1 and 2 apply to both limits, but Rule 3 applies only to the thermal limit (i.e., the MPE expressed as $0.56 t^{0.25}$), where t_{\min} is 1 ns. Repeated exposures are additive over a 24-hour duration regardless of the repetition rate for the wavelength range of 0.180 to 0.400 μm , if the MPE is to protect against photochemical effects (i.e., those MPEs expressed as a constant radiant exposure for up to 30,000 s). Additionally, for the wavelength range of 0.280 to 0.400 μm , the applicable MPE for any 24-hour period is reduced by a factor of 2.5 times, if exposures on succeeding days are expected to approach that MPE.

8.2.3.2 Repeated Exposures, Visible (0.4 to 0.7 μm) and Infrared (0.7 to 1.4 μm). Dual limits apply in the short-wavelength part of the spectral region and the values from 8.2.3 are used for the calculations. For repeated exposures, the MPE per pulse is the lowest of the three calculated results using Rules 1, 2, and 3. For wavelengths between 0.4 to 1.05 μm , the value of t_{\min} is 18 μs ; whereas between 1.05 and 1.4 μm , t_{\min} is 50 μs . The MPE to protect against photochemically induced retinal injury applies only to the visible part of the spectrum between 0.4 and 0.6 μm , and for exposure durations greater than 0.7 s. The exposure dose is linearly additive up to T_{\max} . The MPE is also limited by the radiance of the source and can be expressed as $100 C_B \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$. For exposure durations of 0.7 s or less, the MPE computed by Rule 2 will result in a radiance less than this value. In all cases, the maximum duration to apply in determining “ n ” for Rule 3 from the duration of the pulse train T shall be T_2 seconds.

Note: In this spectral region (0.4 to 1.4 μm), the dividing line between Rules 2 and 3 is the critical frequency. For a short, unintentional exposure (0.25 to 10 s) to nanosecond (or longer) pulses, the critical frequency is 55 kHz for wavelengths between 0.4 and 1.05 μm , and 20 kHz for wavelengths between 1.05 and 1.4 μm . For longer exposure durations (0.4 to 0.7 μm) when the product of n and the pulse duration exceeds 10 s, Rule 2 often produces the lower limit, mainly due to photochemical interaction.

8.2.3.3 Repeated Exposures, Infrared (1.4 μm to 1 mm). Only thermal effects occur in this spectral region. The lower MPE calculated from Rules 2 and 3 from Section 8.2.3

determines the actual MPE. The critical frequency is much lower for these middle and far infrared wavelengths, and is often just a few hertz or less. Since different limiting and measurement apertures apply for pulsed versus CW exposures, the aperture for Rule 1 is determined from the duration of a single pulse. For Rule 2, the potential exposure for all exposure durations, T , less than or equal to T_{\max} is compared with the MPE for T with the corresponding limiting aperture determined from T . For Rule 3, the aperture is determined from the duration of a single pulse (≤ 0.25 s). The energy from a group of pulses with an inter-pulse spacing of t_{\min} or less is considered a single pulse for Rule 3.

Note: For lasers with wavelengths greater than 1.5 μm but less than 1.8 μm , the single-pulse MPE [Rule 1] is the same as the CW MPE [Rule 2] for a 10 s exposure. Therefore, t_{\min} is 10 s for such lasers; the MPE for each pulse in a train of pulses is simply the single-pulse MPE divided by the number of pulses in the train. For lasers with wavelengths greater than 2.6 μm , t_{\min} is only 100 ns. For other infrared wavelengths, t_{\min} is 1 ms.

8.3 Special Qualifications for Ocular Exposures.

Lower exposure MPEs are required for visible lasers (0.4 to 0.7 μm) when the eye is immobilized or has a large pupil such as in health care with ophthalmic instruments or in research situations. Lower MPEs are needed in order to protect against injury to the eye by visible light exposure (0.4 to 0.7 μm), while the normal protective mechanisms such as eye movement and pupil constriction have been prevented by drugs or other means.

When the exposure time exceeds 0.1 s and pupil constriction is inhibited by drugs or other means, the ocular MPEs shall be reduced as follows:

- (1) To protect against photochemically induced retinal injury, the integrated radiance of the source must be below $20 C_B \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$ averaged over a cone angle of γ . This integrated radiance limit corresponds to a retinal radiant exposure limit of $2.7 C_B \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$, ignoring intraocular transmission losses.
- (2) To protect against thermally induced retinal injury for both point source viewing and viewing of extended sources, the MPE for exposures between 0.07 s and 0.7 s should remain that which is applicable for a 0.07 s exposure. For exposure durations longer than 0.7 s, the MPE should be reduced by a factor of 5.4 for wavelengths between 0.4 and 0.6 μm , and by a factor of $10^{7.4(0.700-\lambda)}$ for wavelengths between 0.6 and 0.7 μm .

When the eye is immobilized or otherwise constrained so that the image on the retina is stabilized, both the point source viewing and the extended source exposure are limited to $20 C_B \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$ averaged over 1.5 mrad.

8.4 MPE for Skin Exposure to a Laser Beam.

MPEs for skin exposure to a laser beam are given in Table 7. These levels are for worst-case conditions and are based on the best available information.

8.4.1 MPE for Skin, Repeated Exposures. For repetitive-pulse lasers the MPEs for skin exposure are applied as follows: Exposure of the skin shall not exceed the MPE based upon a

single-pulse exposure, and the average irradiance of the pulse train shall not exceed the MPE applicable for the total pulse train, duration T . Rule 3 does not apply to skin exposure.

8.4.2 Large Area Exposures (Wavelengths Greater than 1.4 μm). For beam cross-sectional areas between 100 cm^2 and 1000 cm^2 , the MPE for exposure durations exceeding 10 s is $10,000/A_s\text{ mW}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$, where A_s is the area of the exposed skin in cm^2 . For exposed skin areas exceeding 1000 cm^2 , the MPE is $10\text{ mW}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$.

9. Measurements

9.1 General.

Measurements are appropriate under the following circumstances: when the laser or laser system has not been classified by the manufacturer in accordance with the FLPPS or IEC 60825-1 (or latest revision thereof); when alterations to a system may have changed its classification, or when the borders of a NHZ cannot be determined from an analysis of the beam parameters. Measurements should not be necessary when the laser or laser system has been classified by the manufacturer in accordance with the FLPPS or IEC 60825-1 (or latest revision thereof).

When comparing measured results to the MPE or AEL, the combined uncertainty due to all sources of inaccuracy shall not exceed $\pm 20\%$, or, if this is not possible, the best that the state of the art reasonably will permit. It is important to recognize that measurements improperly performed may be worse than no measurements, since they may imply a safe condition that does not actually exist. Guidance on laser measurements can be found in the ANSI Recommended Practice for Laser Safety Measurements and Hazard Evaluation, Z136.4-2005 (or latest revision thereof).

If measurements are performed, the accuracy of the instrumentation should be traceable to national standards, either directly to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or to other transfer standards traceable to NIST. NIST establishes and maintains national measurement standards for characterizing laser radiation.

Measurements should be attempted only by personnel trained or experienced in laser technology and radiometry. Routine survey measurements of lasers or laser systems are neither required nor advisable when the laser classifications are known and the appropriate control measures implemented.

If a laser or laser system is used outdoors over long ranges, where the uncertainties of propagation influence exposures, or where the beam divergence is uncertain, measurements at specific locations may be useful.

Measurements shall be made with the laser adjusted to produce the most hazardous exposure conditions for the intended use.

9.2 Point Source and Extended Source Measurements.

If measurements or calculations are required, distinction shall first be made between point source viewing and extended source viewing in the 0.4 to 1.4 μm wavelength region. For the purpose of this standard, an extended source subtends an angle at the observer's eye greater than the angular subtense, α_{min} , (1.5 mrad), across the largest angular dimension of the source as viewed by the observer. A field of view of 100 mrad (α_{max}) is sufficient to evaluate retinal hazards since the MPE is related to retinal irradiance or radiant exposure for images larger than α_{max} . For photochemical MPEs and AELs over the wavelength range from 0.4 μm to 0.6 μm , the specified field of view γ shall be used for averaging radiance.

9.2.1 Measurements Relating to MPE and AEL. For comparing laser beam characteristics to the MPE, that radiant energy or power which can be collected in a circular limiting aperture having a diameter as given in Tables 8a and 8b shall be used for comparison with the MPE at any location where exposure can occur. For laser classification, beam measurements shall be made at the point of greatest hazard but no closer than those distances given in Table 9 from the point of closest access.

9.2.1.1 Radiant Energy or Power. For classification, the radiant energy or power which can be collected in circular measurement apertures located at the distances given in Table 9 (Condition 1 and Condition 2) shall be used for comparison with the AEL to determine the appropriate hazard class.

9.2.2 Irradiance or Radiant Exposure.

9.2.2.1 Limiting Aperture. The limiting aperture diameters specified in Tables 8a and 8b are intended for averaging exposures. Apertures with diameters smaller than those specified may be used for measurements, but may produce conservative results. If measurements with a smaller diameter aperture than specified in Table 8a indicate a moderate hazard, then the averaging aperture specified in Table 8a shall be used to determine if the exposure is actually above or below the MPE.

The sensitivity per unit area shall be sufficiently uniform, when mapped with a 1 mm diameter beam, to ensure the required accuracy of measurement.

No correction for beam size or homogeneity is necessary in cases where the entire beam enters the effective limiting aperture. For larger beams, the measurement shall be made in the area of the beam that gives the maximum reading.

For distinguishing between Class 3B and Class 4 pulsed lasers, the maximum radiant power or energy which is transmitted through the measurement apertures listed in Table 9 shall be used.

9.2.2.2 Field of View (0.18 to 0.40 μm and 1.4 μm to 1 mm Wavelengths). In measuring the irradiance or radiant exposure from ultraviolet and far infrared diffuse sources, care shall be taken to make sure that the field of view of the instrument is adequate to ensure the required accuracy of measurement.

9.3 Instruments.

Many optical power, energy, pulse shape, and PRF measuring devices available commercially can be used to determine classification and compliance with this standard. Instruments shall be calibrated sufficiently well to permit overall measurement accuracies of $\pm 20\%$ wherever possible.

Measurements with instruments having smaller effective limiting apertures than those in Table 9 are permitted provided the appropriate correction factors are applied to ensure the required accuracy of measurement.

10. Revision of Standards Referred to in this Document

10.1 ANSI Standards.

When any of the following American National Standards referred to in this document is revised, the latest revision approved by the American National Standards Institute, Inc., shall apply:

American National Standard Compressed Gas Cylinder Value Outlet and Inlet Connections, ANSI/CGA V-1.

American National Standard National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA 70.

American National Standard Safety Standard for Radio Receivers, Audio Systems, and Accessories, ANSI/UL 1270.

American National Standard General Safety Standard for Installations Using Non-Medical X-Ray and Sealed Gamma-Ray Sources, Energies up to 10 MeV, ANSI/N43.3.

American National Standard Specifications for Accident Prevention Signs, ANSI Z535.1.

American National Standard Criteria for Safety Symbols, ANSI Z535.2-1998.

American National Specification for Accident Prevention Signs, ANSI Z535.3-1998.

American National Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection, ANSI Z87.1-2003.

American National Standard for Industrial Robots and Robot Systems-Safety Requirements, ANSI/RIA R15.06.

American National Standard Fundamentals Governing the Design and Operation of Local Exhaust Systems, ANSI Z9.2.

10.2 Other Standards and Codes.

ACGIH: Industrial Ventilation: A Manual of Recommended Practice (latest revision thereof).

ACGIH: Threshold Limit Values for Chemical Substances and Physical Agents and Biological Exposure Indices (latest revision thereof).

FDA/CDRH Laser Products – Conformance with IEC 60825-1, Am. 2 and IEC 60601-2-22; Final Guidance for Industry and FDA (Laser Notice No. 50).

FDA/CDRH Federal Laser Product Performance Standard (FLPPS), 21CFR Part 1040.

IEC 60825-1, Ed 1.2: 2001-08 Safety of Laser Products – Part 1: Equipment Classification, Requirements, and User’s Guide.

IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, 3 kHz to 300 GHz, C95.1-2005.

IEEE Standard for Radio-Frequency Energy and Current-Flow Symbols, C95.2-1999

IEEE Standard for Safety Levels with Respect to Human Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields, 0 to 3 kHz, IEEE C95.6-2002.

IEEE Recommended Practice for Radio Frequency Safety Programs, 3 kHz to 300 GHz, C95.7-2005

National Fire Protection Association: NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids; NFPA 45, Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals; NFPA 115, Laser Fire Protection.

NEC, Section 110-16, Work Space About Electric Equipment (600 Volts Nominal or Less).

NEC: National Electrical Code, Article 500, Hazardous (Classified) Locations.

OSHA: Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry, 29 CFR 1910:

1910.95	Occupational Noise Exposure
1910.169,170,171	Compressed Gas and Compressed Air Equipment
1910.134	Respiratory Protection
1910.147	The Control of Hazardous Energy (lockout/tagout)
1910.309-330	Electrical Safety Related Work Practices
Subpart Z	Toxic and Hazardous Substance

Table 2. Recommended Limiting Exposure Durations for CW and Repetitive-Pulse MPE Calculations*

Wavelength Range	Diffuse (seconds)	Intrabeam (seconds)
UV 0.18 to 0.4 μm	30,000	30,000
Visible 0.4 to 0.7 μm	600	0.25**
NIR 0.7 to 1.4 μm	600	10
FIR 1.4 μm to 1 mm	10	10

* For single pulse lasers (PRF < 1 Hz) use actual laser pulse duration.

** For unintended or accidental viewing only. For other conditions, use the time of *intended* viewing.

**Table 3. Diffusely Reflected Beam Energy in Joules
that does not Exceed the MPE**

Pulsed Lasers (1 ns to 50 μ s Pulse Duration: Wavelengths Between 0.400 to 1.400 μ m).[†]

Beam Diameter (cm)	Viewing Distance, r_1 (cm)		
	20	100	1000
0.1	$0.002 \times C_A$	$0.016 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
0.2	$0.004 \times C_A$	$0.021 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
0.3	$0.006 \times C_A$	$0.032 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
0.4	$0.008 \times C_A$	$0.042 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
0.5	$0.011 \times C_A$	$0.053 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
0.6	$0.013 \times C_A$	$0.063 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
0.7	$0.015 \times C_A$	$0.074 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
0.8	$0.017 \times C_A$	$0.084 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
0.9	$0.020 \times C_A$	$0.095 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
1.0	$0.022 \times C_A$	$0.11 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
1.5	$0.034 \times C_A$	$0.16 \times C_A$	$1.6 \times C_A$
2.0	$0.046 \times C_A$	$0.21 \times C_A$	$2.1 \times C_A$
2.5	$0.074 \times C_A$	$0.27 \times C_A$	$2.6 \times C_A$
3.0	$0.11 \times C_A$	$0.32 \times C_A$	$3.2 \times C_A$
3.5	$0.15 \times C_A$	$0.38 \times C_A$	$3.7 \times C_A$
4.0	$0.20 \times C_A$	$0.44 \times C_A$	$4.2 \times C_A$
4.5	$0.26 \times C_A$	$0.49 \times C_A$	$4.7 \times C_A$
5.0	$0.33 \times C_A$	$0.55 \times C_A$	$5.3 \times C_A$
6.0	$0.50 \times C_A$	$0.68 \times C_A$	$6.3 \times C_A$
7.0	$0.7 \times C_A$	$0.79 \times C_A$	$7.4 \times C_A$
8.0	$0.9 \times C_A$	$0.91 \times C_A$	$8.4 \times C_A$
9.0	$1.3 \times C_A$	$1.0 \times C_A$	$9.5 \times C_A$
10.0	$1.6 \times C_A$	$1.2 \times C_A$	$11.0 \times C_A$

[†] The table shows the values for pulsed lasers with 1 ns to 18 μ s pulse durations for the wavelength region 0.400 to 1.050 μ m and 1 ns to 50 μ s for the wavelength region 1.050 to 1.400 μ m.

Note 1: The diffuse reflection values Q are based on the MPE values in Tables 5a and 5b and are calculated from the general equation

$$Q = \frac{\pi(\text{MPE})(r_1 + D_p / 2)^2}{\rho_\lambda \cos \theta_v}$$

which is valid for all exposure durations where the MPE in Tables 5a and 5b is expressed in $\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$, including those for 100 fs to 1 ns. D_p is the diameter of the laser beam at the reflection site, θ_v is the viewing angle, ρ_λ is the spectral reflectance as a function of wavelength (where this is not known, the value 1 is used), and r_1 is the viewing distance. In calculating the above values, the following was assumed: $\theta_v = 90^\circ$; $\rho_\lambda = 1$; and $n = 1$ (that is, these values are for the single-pulse case). The MPE values substituted into the above equation must include the correction factors C_A , C_C , C_E , and C_P where appropriate, and for wavelengths between 0.4 and 0.55 μ m, the MPE is the lower value of the thermal and photochemical MPE computations (see Tables 5 and 6 and Section 8.2.3.2).

Note 2: In the wavelength region 1.050 to 1.400 μ m, the tabular values above are to be multiplied by the term $2 \times C_C$ (see Table 6).

Note 3: For targets of known reflectance, the above values may be divided by the reflectance of the target.

Table 4. Simplified Method for Selecting Laser Eye Protection for Point Source Viewing (Wavelengths Between 0.400 and 1.400 μm)[†]

Q-Switched Laser (10^{-9} - 10^{-2} s)		Non-Q-Switched Lasers (0.4×10^{-3} - 10^{-2} s)		Continuous-Wave Lasers Momentary (0.25 - 10 s)		Continuous-Wave Lasers Long-Term Staring (< 1 hr)		Attenuation	
Maximum Output Energy (J)	Max Beam Radiant Exposure ($\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$)	Max Laser Output Energy (J)	Max Beam Radiant Exposure ($\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$)	Max Power Output (W)	Max Beam Irradiance ($\text{W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$)	Max Power Output (W)	Max Beam Irradiance ($\text{W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$)	Attenuation Factor	OD
10	20	100	200	10^5 *	2×10^5 *	100 *	200 *	10^8	8
1	2	10	20	10^4 *	2×10^4 *	10 *	20 *	10^7	7
10^{-1}	2×10^{-1}	1	2	10^3 *	2×10^3 *	1	2	10^6	6
10^{-2}	2×10^{-2}	10^{-1}	2×10^{-1}	100 *	200 *	10^{-1}	2×10^{-1}	10^5	5
10^{-3}	2×10^{-3}	10^{-2}	2×10^{-2}	10	20	10^{-2}	2×10^{-2}	10^4	4
10^{-4}	2×10^{-4}	10^{-3}	2×10^{-3}	1	2	10^{-3}	2×10^{-3}	10^3	3
10^{-5}	2×10^{-5}	10^{-4}	2×10^{-4}	10^{-1}	2×10^{-1}	10^{-4}	2×10^{-4}	10^2	2
10^{-6}	2×10^{-6}	10^{-5}	2×10^{-5}	10^{-2}	2×10^{-2}	10^{-5}	2×10^{-5}	10	1

[†] Use of this table may result in optical densities (OD) greater than necessary. See Section 4.6.2 for other wavelengths.

*

Not recommended as a control procedure at these levels. These levels of power could damage or destroy the attenuating material used in the eye protection. The skin also needs protection at these levels.

Table 5a. Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) for Point Source Ocular Exposure to a Laser Beam[†]

Wavelength (μm)	Exposure Duration, t (s)	MPE		Notes
		($\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$)	($\text{W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$)	
Ultraviolet <i>Dual Limits for λ between 0.180 and 0.400 μm</i>				In the Dual Limit Wavelength Region (0.180 to 0.400 μm), the lower MPE considering photochemical and thermal effects must be chosen. See Tables 8a and 8b for limiting aperture and Table 9 for measurement aperture.
Thermal 0.180 to 0.400	10^{-9} to 10	$0.56 t^{0.25}$		
Photochemical 0.180 to 0.302	10^{-9} to 3×10^4	3×10^{-3}		
0.302 to 0.315	10^{-9} to 3×10^4	$10^{200(\lambda-0.295)}\times 10^{-4}$		
0.315 to 0.400	10 to 3×10^4	1.0		
Visible 0.400 to 0.700 0.400 to 0.700 0.400 to 0.700 0.400 to 0.700 0.500 to 0.700				In the Wavelength Region (0.400 to 0.500 μm), T_1 determines whether the photochemical or thermal MPE is lower. For extended sources in the retinal hazard region (0.400 to 1.4 μm), see Table 5b. See Table 6 and Figures 8 and 9 for correction factors C_A , C_B , C_C , C_P , C_E , and times T_1 and T_2 .
	10^{-13} to 10^{-11}	1.5×10^{-8}		
	10^{-11} to 10^{-9}	$2.7 t^{0.75}$		
	10^{-9} to 18×10^{-6}	5.0×10^{-7}		
	18×10^{-6} to 10	$1.8 t^{0.75} \times 10^{-3}$	1×10^{-3}	
Thermal 0.450 to 0.500	10 to T_1		1×10^{-3}	
Photochemical 0.400 to 0.450	10 to 100	1×10^{-2}		
0.450 to 0.500	T_1 to 100	$C_B \times 10^{-2}$		
0.400 to 0.500	100 to 3×10^4		$C_B \times 10^{-4}$	
Near Infrared 0.700 to 1.050 0.700 to 1.050 0.700 to 1.050 0.700 to 1.050 0.700 to 1.050				For repeated (pulsed) exposures, see Section 8.2.3. A correction factor, C_P applies to thermal limits, but not to photochemical limits.
	10^{-13} to 10^{-11}	$1.5 C_A \times 10^{-8}$		
	10^{-11} to 10^{-9}	$2.7 C_A t^{0.75}$		
	10^{-9} to 18×10^{-6}	$5.0 C_A \times 10^{-7}$		
	18×10^{-6} to 10	$1.8 C_A t^{0.75} \times 10^{-3}$	$C_A \times 10^{-3}$	
	10 to 3×10^4			
	10^{-13} to 10^{-11}	$1.5 C_C \times 10^{-7}$		The wavelength region λ_1 to λ_2 means $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda < \lambda_2$, e.g., 0.180 to 0.302 μm means $0.180 \leq \lambda < 0.302 \mu\text{m}$.
	10^{-11} to 10^{-9}	$27.0 C_C t^{0.75}$		
	10^{-9} to 50×10^{-6}	$5.0 C_C \times 10^{-6}$		
	50×10^{-6} to 10	$9.0 C_C t^{0.75} \times 10^{-3}$		
	10 to 3×10^4		$5.0 C_C \times 10^{-3}$	
Far Infrared 1.400 to 1.500 1.400 to 1.500 1.400 to 1.500 1.500 to 1.800 1.500 to 1.800 1.800 to 2.600 1.800 to 2.600 1.800 to 2.600 2.600 to 1000 2.600 to 1000 2.600 to 1000				Note: The MPEs must be in the same units.
	10^{-9} to 10^{-3}	0.1		
	10^{-3} to 10	$0.56 t^{0.25}$		
	10 to 3×10^4		0.1	
	10^{-9} to 10	1.0		
	10 to 3×10^4		0.1	
	10^{-9} to 10^{-3}	0.1		
	10^{-3} to 10	$0.56 t^{0.25}$		
	10 to 3×10^4		0.1	
	10^{-9} to 10^{-7}	1×10^{-2}		
	10^{-7} to 10	$0.56 t^{0.25}$		
	10 to 3×10^4		0.1	

**Table 5b. Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE)
for Extended Source Ocular Exposure[†]**

Wavelength (μm)	Exposure Duration, t (s)	MPE		Notes
		($\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$) except as noted	($\text{W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$) except as noted	
Visible				
0.400 to 0.700	10^{-13} to 10^{-11}	$1.5 C_E \times 10^{-8}$		(See Tables 8a and 9 for limiting apertures)
0.400 to 0.700	10^{-11} to 10^{-9}	$2.7 C_E t^{0.75}$		
0.400 to 0.700	10^{-9} to 18×10^{-6}	$5.0 C_E \times 10^{-7}$		
0.400 to 0.700	18×10^{-6} to 0.7	$1.8 C_E t^{0.75} \times 10^{-3}$		
<i>Dual Limits for λ between 0.400 and 0.600 μm visible laser exposure for $t > 0.7$ s</i>				
Photochemical				
For $\alpha \leq 11\text{mrad}$, the MPE is expressed as irradiance and radiant exposure*				
0.400 to 0.600	0.7 to 100	$C_B \times 10^{-2}$		(See Tables 8a and 9 for limiting apertures)
0.400 to 0.600	100 to 3×10^4		$C_B \times 10^{-4}$	
For $\alpha > 11\text{mrad}$, the MPE is expressed as radiance and integrated radiance*				
0.400 to 0.600	0.7 to 1×10^4	$100 C_B \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$		(See Table 8a for limiting cone angle γ)
0.400 to 0.600	1×10^4 to 3×10^4		$C_B \times 10^{-2} \text{ W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$	
<i>and</i>				
Thermal				
0.400 to 0.700	0.7 to T_2	$1.8 C_E t^{0.75} \times 10^{-3}$		
0.400 to 0.700	T_2 to 3×10^4		$1.8 C_E T_2^{-0.25} \times 10^{-3}$	
Near Infrared				
0.700 to 1.050	10^{-13} to 10^{-11}	$1.5 C_A C_E \times 10^{-8}$		(See Tables 8a and 9 for limiting apertures)
0.700 to 1.050	10^{-11} to 10^{-9}	$2.7 C_A C_E t^{0.75}$		
0.700 to 1.050	10^{-9} to 18×10^{-6}	$5.0 C_A C_E \times 10^{-7}$		
0.700 to 1.050	18×10^{-6} to T_2	$1.8 C_A C_E t^{0.75} \times 10^{-3}$		
0.700 to 1.050	T_2 to 3×10^4		$1.8 C_A C_E T_2^{-0.25} \times 10^{-3}$	
1.050 to 1.400	10^{-13} to 10^{-11}	$1.5 C_C C_E \times 10^{-7}$		
1.050 to 1.400	10^{-11} to 10^{-9}	$27.0 C_C C_E t^{0.75}$		
1.050 to 1.400	10^{-9} to 50×10^{-6}	$5.0 C_C C_E \times 10^{-6}$		
1.050 to 1.400	50×10^{-6} to T_2	$9.0 C_C C_E t^{0.75} \times 10^{-3}$		
1.050 to 1.400	T_2 to 3×10^4		$9.0 C_C C_E T_2^{-0.25} \times 10^{-3}$	

[†] See Table 6 and Figures 8, 9 and 13 for correction factors C_A , C_B , C_C , C_E , C_P , and times T_1 and T_2 .

* For sources subtending an angle greater than 11 mrad, the limit may also be expressed as an integrated radiance $L_p = 100 C_B \text{ J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$ for $0.7 \text{ s} \leq t < 10^4 \text{ s}$ and $L_e = C_B \times 10^{-2} \text{ W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}\cdot\text{sr}^{-1}$ for $t \geq 10^4 \text{ s}$ as measured through a limiting cone angle γ . These correspond to values of $\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ for $10 \text{ s} \leq t < 100 \text{ s}$ and $\text{W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$ for $t \geq 100 \text{ s}$ as measured through a limiting cone angle γ .

$$\gamma = 11 \text{ mrad for } 0.7 \text{ s} \leq t < 100 \text{ s,}$$

$$\gamma = 1.1 \times t^{0.5} \text{ mrad for } 100 \text{ s} \leq t < 10^4 \text{ s}$$

$$\gamma = 110 \text{ mrad for } 10^4 \text{ s} \leq t < 3 \times 10^4 \text{ s}$$

See Figure 3 for γ and Appendix B7.2 for examples.

Note 1: For repeated (pulsed) exposures, see Section 8.2.3.

Note 2: The wavelength region λ_1 to λ_2 means $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda < \lambda_2$, e.g., 1.180 to 1.302 μm means $1.180 \leq \lambda < 1.302 \mu\text{m}$.

Note 3: Dual Limit Application: In the Dual Limit wavelength region (0.400 to 0.600 μm), the exposure limit is the lower value of the determined photochemical and thermal exposure limit.

Note 4: The MPEs must be in the same units.

Table 6. Parameters and Correction Factors

Parameters/ Correction Factors	Wavelength (μm)	Figure with Graphical Representation
$C_A = 1.0$	0.400 to 0.700	8a
$C_A = 10^{2(\lambda - 0.700)}$	0.700 to 1.050	8a
$C_A = 5.0$	1.050 to 1.400	8a
$C_B = 1.0$	0.400 to 0.450	8c
$C_B = 10^{20(\lambda - 0.450)}$	0.450 to 0.600	8c
$C_C = 1.0$	1.050 to 1.150	8b
$C_C = 10^{18(\lambda - 1.150)}$	1.150 to 1.200	8b
$C_C = 8$	1.200 to 1.400	8b
$C_E = 1.0 \quad \alpha < \alpha_{\min}^*$	0.400 to 1.400	—
$C_E = \alpha / \alpha_{\min} \quad \alpha_{\min} \leq \alpha \leq \alpha_{\max}^*$	0.400 to 1.400	—
$C_E = \alpha^2 / (\alpha_{\max} \alpha_{\min}) \quad \alpha > \alpha_{\max}^*$	0.400 to 1.400	—
$C_P = n^{-0.25} **$	0.180 to 1000	13
$T_1 = 10 \times 10^{20(\lambda - 0.450)} ***$	0.450 to 0.500	9a
$T_2 = 10 \times 10^{(\alpha - 1.5)/98.5} ****$	0.400 to 1.400	9b

* For wavelengths between 0.400 and 1.400 μm : $\alpha_{\min} = 1.5$ mrad, and $\alpha_{\max} = 100$ mrad

** See 8.2.3 for discussion of C_P and 8.2.3.2 for discussion of pulse repetition frequencies below 55 kHz (0.4 to 1.05 μm) and below 20 kHz (1.05 to 1.4 μm).

*** $T_1 = 10$ s for $\lambda = 0.450$ μm , and $T_1 = 100$ s for $\lambda = 0.500$ μm .

**** $T_2 = 10$ s for $\alpha < 1.5$ mrad, and $T_2 = 100$ s for $\alpha > 100$ mrad.

Note 1: Wavelengths must be expressed in micrometers and angles in milliradians for calculations.

Note 2: The wavelength region λ_1 to λ_2 means $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda < \lambda_2$, e.g., 0.550 to 0.700 μm means $0.550 \leq \lambda < 0.700$ μm .

**Table 7. Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE)
for Skin Exposure to a Laser Beam**

Wavelength (μm)	Exposure Duration, t (s)	MPE		Notes
		($\text{J}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$) except as noted	($\text{W}\cdot\text{cm}^{-2}$) except as noted	
Ultraviolet				In the Dual Limit Wavelength Region (0.180 to 0.400 μm), the lower MPE considering photochemical and thermal effects must be chosen. 3.5 mm limiting aperture applies for all wavelengths and exposure durations (see Table 8a).
<i>Dual Limits for λ between 0.180 to 0.400 μm</i>				
Thermal 0.180 to 0.400	10^{-9} to 10	$0.56 t^{0.25}$		
Photochemical 0.180 to 0.302	10^{-9} to 3×10^4	3×10^{-3}		
0.302 to 0.315	10^{-9} to 3×10^4	$10^{200(\lambda-0.295)}\times 10^{-4}$		
0.315 to 0.400	10 to 10^3	1.0		
0.315 to 0.400	10^3 to 3×10^4		1×10^{-3}	
Visible and Near Infrared				The wavelength region λ_1 to λ_2 means $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda < \lambda_2$, e.g., 0.180 to 0.302 μm means $0.180 \leq \lambda < 0.302 \mu\text{m}$.
0.400 to 1.400	10^{-9} to 10^{-7}	$2 C_A \times 10^{-2}$		
0.400 to 1.400	10^{-7} to 10	$1.1 C_A t^{0.25}$		
0.400 to 1.400	10 to 3×10^4		$0.2 C_A$	
Far Infrared				The exposure duration t_1 to t_2 means $t_1 \leq t < t_2$, e.g., 10 to 10^3 s means $10 \text{ s} \leq t < 10^3 \text{ s}$. See Section 8.4.2 for large beam cross sections and Table 6 for correction factor C_A
1.400 to 1.500	10^{-9} to 10^{-3}	0.1		
1.400 to 1.500	10^{-3} to 10	$0.56 t^{0.25}$		
1.400 to 1.500	10 to 3×10^4		0.1	
1.500 to 1.800	10^{-9} to 10	1.0		
1.500 to 1.800	10 to 3×10^4		0.1	
1.800 to 2.600	10^{-9} to 10^{-3}	0.1		
1.800 to 2.600	10^{-3} to 10	$0.56 t^{0.25}$		
1.800 to 2.600	10 to 3×10^4		0.1	
2.600 to 1000	10^{-9} to 10^{-7}	1×10^{-2}		
2.600 to 1000	10^{-7} to 10	$0.56 t^{0.25}$		
2.600 to 1000	10 to 3×10^4		0.1	

Table 8a. Limiting Apertures (Irradiance and Radiant Exposure) and Limiting Cone Angles γ (Radiance and Integrated Radiance) for Hazard Evaluation

Spectral Region (μm)	Duration [†] (s)	Aperture Diameter (mm)	
		Eye	Skin
0.180 to 0.400	10^{-9} to 0.3	1.0	3.5
	0.3 to 10^*	$1.5 t^{0.375}$	3.5
	10 to 3×10^4	3.5	3.5
0.400 to 1.400	10^{-13} to 3×10^4	7.0	3.5
1.400 to 10^2	10^{-9} to 0.3	1.0	3.5
	0.3 to 10^*	$1.5 t^{0.375}$	3.5
	10 to 3×10^4	3.5	3.5
10^2 to 10^3	10^{-9} to 3×10^4	11.0	11.0
Limiting Cone Angle, γ (mrad)			
0.400 to 0.600	0.7 to 100	11	
	100 to 10^4	$1.1 t^{0.5}$	
	10^4 to 3×10^4	110	

* Under normal conditions these exposure durations would not be used for hazard evaluation.

† For guidance on exposure durations less than 10^{-13} seconds, see 8.2.2.

Note: The wavelength region λ_1 to λ_2 means $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda < \lambda_2 \mu\text{m}$, e.g., 0.315 to 0.400 μm means $0.315 \leq \lambda < 0.400 \mu\text{m}$. Additionally, the exposure duration region t_1 to t_2 means $t_1 \leq t < t_2$ s, e.g., 0.3 to 10 s means $0.3 \leq t < 10$ s.

Table 8b. Limiting Apertures for AEL Determination

Spectral Region (μm)	Duration* (s)	Aperture Diameter (mm)	Area of Limiting Aperture (cm^2)
0.180 to 0.400	10^{-9} to 0.3	1.0	7.85×10^{-3}
	0.3 to 10	$1.5 t^{0.375}$	$2.25 \times 10^{-2} t^{0.75}$
	10 to 3×10^4	3.5	9.6×10^{-2}
0.400 to 1.400	10^{-13} to 3×10^4	7.0	0.385
1.400 to 10^2	10^{-9} to 0.3	1.0	7.85×10^{-3}
	0.3 to 10	$1.5 t^{0.375}$	$2.25 \times 10^{-2} t^{0.75}$
	10 to 3×10^4	3.5	9.6×10^{-2}
10^2 to 10^3	10^{-9} to 3×10^4	11.0	0.95

* Since different limiting and measurement apertures apply for pulsed versus CW exposures, the aperture for Rule 1 is determined from the duration of a single pulse. For Rule 2, the potential exposure for all exposure durations, T , less than or equal to T_{max} is compared with the MPE for T with the corresponding limiting aperture determined from T . For Rule 3, the aperture is determined from the duration of a single pulse, (≤ 0.25 s). The energy from pulses contained within exposure duration t_{min} is considered a single pulse for Rule 3. Information on these Rules is available in Section 8.2.3.

Note: The wavelength region λ_1 to λ_2 means $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda < \lambda_2 \mu\text{m}$ e.g., 0.315 to 0.400 μm means $0.315 \leq \lambda < 0.400 \mu\text{m}$. Additionally, the exposure duration region t_1 to t_2 means $t_1 \leq t < t_2$ s, e.g., 0.3 to 10 s means $0.3 \leq t < 10$ s.

Table 9. Measurement Apertures for Laser Classification*

Spectral Region** (μm)	Exposure [†] Duration (s)	Condition 1		Condition 2	
		Aperture Diameter [§] (mm)	Measurement Distance (cm)	Aperture Diameter (mm)	Measurement Distance [#] (cm)
0.180 to 0.302	10^{-9} to 0.3	N/A	N/A	1.0	10
	0.3 to 10			$1.5t^{0.375}$	
	10 to 3×10^4			3.5	
0.302 to 0.4	10^{-9} to 0.3	7.0	200	1.0	10
	0.3 to 10	$11t^{0.375}$		$1.5t^{0.375}$	
	10 to 3×10^4	25.0		3.5	
0.4 to 1.4	10^{-13} to 3×10^4	50.0	200	7.0	10
1.4 to 2.8	10^{-9} to 0.3	7.0	200	1.0	10
	0.3 to 10	$11t^{0.375}$		$1.5t^{0.375}$	
	10 to 3×10^4	25.0		3.5	
2.8 to 10^2	10^{-9} to 0.3	N/A	N/A	1.0	10
	0.3 to 10			$1.5t^{0.375}$	
	10 to 3×10^4			3.5	
10^2 to 10^3	10^{-9} to 3×10^4	N/A	N/A	11.0	10

* These apertures are used for the measurement of optical power or energy for the purpose of laser classification (see 3.3). The standardized measurement apertures and distances actually simulate many viewing conditions and do not necessarily refer only to viewing at those measurement distances. For high power scopes used for examining optical fiber communication systems (OFCS) fibers, the guidance provided in ANSI Z136.2 (1997) should be followed.

**Condition 1 in this standard does not apply for lasers having wavelengths exceeding 2.8 μm since most telescopic optics do not transmit beyond 2.8 μm ; however, the IEC 60825-1 applies Condition 1 to lasers that have wavelengths up to 4.0 μm in consideration of special purpose telescopes that have transmission over an extended spectral range.

[†] For guidance on exposure durations less than 10^{-13} seconds see 8.2.2. Exposure durations between 0.3 s and 10 s would not normally be used for classification.

[§]Under use conditions, when the laser output is intended to be viewed with optics (excluding ordinary eyeglasses) or the Laser Safety Officer determines that there is a reasonable probability of accidental viewing with optics, the apertures listed in Tables 8a and 8b for hazard evaluation apply to the exit beam from the particular optical instrument being considered. For situations where the default conditions do not apply, refer to the hazard analysis techniques in the examples in B6.4.3 Appendix B.

[#]The default measurement distance for Condition 2 in the IEC 60825-1 is 7 cm.

Note: The wavelength region λ_1 to λ_2 means $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda < \lambda_2$, e.g., 0.315 to 0.400 μm means $0.315 \leq \lambda < 0.400 \mu\text{m}$.

Table 10. Control Measures for the Seven Laser Classes

Engineering Control Measures	Classification						
	1	1M	2	2M	3R	3B	4
Protective Housing (4.3.1)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Without Protective Housing (4.3.1.1)	LSO shall establish Alternative Controls						
Interlocks on Removable Protective Housings (4.3.2)	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	X	X
Service Access Panel (4.3.3)	▽	▽	▽	▽	▽	X	X
Key Control (4.3.4)	—	—	—	—	—	•	X
Viewing Windows, Display Screens and Collecting Optics(4.3.5.1)	Assure viewing limited < MPE						
Collecting Optics (4.3.5.2)							
Fully Open Beam Path (4.3.6.1)	—	—	—	—	—	X NHZ	X NHZ
Limited Open Beam Path (4.3.6.2)	—	—	—	—	—	X NHZ	X NHZ
Enclosed Beam Path (4.3.6.3)	None is required if 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 fulfilled						
Remote Interlock Connector (4.3.7)	—	—	—	—	—	•	X
Beam Stop or Attenuator (4.3.8)	—	—	—	—	—	•	X
Activation Warning Systems (4.3.9.4)	—	—	—	—	—	•	X
Indoor Laser Controlled Area (4.3.10)	—	*	—	*	—	X NHZ	X NHZ
Class 3B Indoor Laser Controlled Area (4.3.10.1)	—	—	—	—	—	X	—
Class 4 Laser Controlled Area (4.3.10.2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X
Outdoor Control Measures (4.3.11)	X	* NHZ	X NHZ	* NHZ	X NHZ	X NHZ	X NHZ
Laser in Navigable Airspace (4.3.11.2)	X	* NHZ	X NHZ	* NHZ	X NHZ	X NHZ	X NHZ
Temporary Laser Controlled Area (4.3.12)	▽ MPE	▽ MPE	▽ MPE	▽ MPE	▽ MPE	—	—
Controlled Operation (4.3.13)	—	—	—	—	—	—	•
Equipment Labels (4.3.14 and 4.7)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Laser Area Warning Signs and Activation Warnings (4.3.9)	—	—	—	—	•	X NHZ	X NHZ

LEGEND: X Shall
 • Should
 — No requirement
 ▽ Shall if enclosed Class 3B or Class 4
 MPE Shall if MPE is exceeded
 NHZ Nominal Hazard Zone analysis required
 * May apply with use of optical aids

Table 10. Control Measures for the Seven Laser Classes (cont.)

Administrative and Procedural Control Measures	Classification						
	1	1M	2	2M	3R	3B	4
Standard Operating Procedures (4.4.1)	—	—	—	—	—	•	X
Output Emission Limitations (4.4.2)	—	—	—	—	LSO Determination		
Education and Training (4.4.3)	—	•	•	•	•	X	X
Authorized Personnel (4.4.4)	—	*	—	*	—	X	X
Alignment Procedures (4.4.5)	∇	∇	∇	∇	∇	X	X
Protective Equipment (4.6)	—	*	—	*	—	•	X
Spectators (4.4.6)	—	*	—	*	—	•	X
Service Personnel (4.4.7)	∇	∇	∇	∇	∇	X	X
Demonstration with General Public (4.5.1)	—	*	X	*	X	X	X
Laser Optical Fiber Transmission Systems (4.5.2)	MPE	MPE	MPE	MPE	MPE	X	X
Laser Robotic Installations (4.5.3)	—	—	—	—	—	X NHZ	X NHZ
Protective Eyewear (4.6.2)	—	—	—	—	—	•	X
Window Protection (4.6.3)	—	—	—	—	—	X	X NHZ
Protective Barriers and Curtains (4.6.4)	—	—	—	—	—	•	•
Skin Protection (4.6.6)	—	—	—	—	—	X	X NHZ
Other Protective Equipment (4.6.7)	Use may be required						
Warning Signs and Labels (4.7) (Design Requirements)	—	—	•	•	•	X NHZ	X NHZ
Service Personnel (4.4.7)	LSO Determination						
Laser System Modifications (4.1.2)	LSO Determination						

LEGEND: X Shall
 • Should
 — No requirement
 ∇ Shall if enclosed Class 3B or Class 4
 MPE Shall if MPE is exceeded
 NHZ Nominal Hazard Zone analysis required
 * May apply with use of optical aids

Table 11a. Summary of Area Warning Signs

Clause	Title	Classification				Required Statement or Comment
		2	3R	3B	4	
3.5.1	Personnel	X	X	X	X	Some individuals may be unable to read or understand signs
4.3.9.1	Warning Sign Posting	-	X	X	X	Specifies which sign required Caution, Danger, Notice
4.3.9.2	Laser Warning Sign Purpose	-	X	X	X	States the four purposes of warning signs
4.3.9.3	Warning Sign Non-Beam Hazard	X	X	X	X	Must follow requirements of other appropriate documents
4.3.9.4.1	Audible Warning Devices	-	-	X	X	Audible warning should be required for Class 3B and shall for Class 4
4.3.9.4.2	Visible Warning Devices	-	-	X	X	Visible warning should be required for Class 3B and shall for Class 4
4.7.1	Design of Signs		X	X	X	Per ANSI Z535 requirements
4.7.2.1.1	Laser Symbol		X	X	X	Laser sun burst required on all signs per ANSI
4.7.2.1.2	International Laser Symbol					International symbol as specified in IEC 60825-1 is acceptable
4.7.2.2	Safety Alert Symbol		X	X	X	The alert symbol is required on all Caution & Danger Signs
4.7.3.1	Signal Word “Danger”		X	X	X	Specifies when to use “Danger” word and format
4.7.3.2	Signal Word “Caution”		X			Specifies when to use “Caution” word and format
4.7.3.3	Signal Word “Notice”		X	X	X	Specifies when to use “Notice” word and format
4.7.4	Pertinent Sign Information		X	X	X	Specifies the location of words on signs
4.7.4.3	Location of Signs		X	X	X	Specifies location of signs

Note: Signs and labels prepared in accordance with previous revisions of this standard are considered to fulfill the requirement of the standard.