

SAFETY ALERT

Laser Pointers

Who needs to read this?

All Staff and Students

Background/Incident Details

A recent incident on campus involved the use of a Laser Pointer during a lighting show. The beam unintentionally shone into a staff member's eye resulting in temporary injury. Below are some examples of laser pointers that you may find on campus.






General Information

Lasers are classified into Class 1, 1M, 2, 2M, 3R, 3B, and 4 based on the accessible hazard. Laser Pointers are also regulated within Australia, as unintentional injury may occur if the incident or reflected beam is directed into a person's eyes. Please note that some imported lasers including Laser Pointers may be confiscated at Customs.

Laser Pointers are required to have Compliance Labels that indicate their class.

A **Compliance Label** is a yellow warning sticker with its classification (eg Class 2)

		
Class 1 Laser Compliance Label	Class 2 Laser Compliance Label	Non-standard Class 3B Laser Compliance Label.

Class 1 & 2 laser pointers do not require Registration or Licencing with the WA Radiological Council, but Class 3B and Class 4 lasers do. Some of these solid state lasers sold as Laser Pointers are Class 3B and 4.

Recommendations

1. Review all Laser Pointers and confirm that they have a conforming compliance label.
2. If you have any Laser Pointers without compliance labels dispose of them. It is an offence to remove a compliance label.
3. If you have a high power Laser Pointer (Class 3B, or Class 4) that is not registered with the Radiation Safety Office please contact the Radiation Safety Advisor for registration, training, and licence requirements.
4. Before purchasing or using any high power laser pointer on campus, please complete a project risk assessment form and forward this through to the Radiation Safety Advisor.

Contact Details

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References

[WA Radiological Council Lasers FAQ](#)
[WA Radiation Safety Regulations 1983](#), Regulation 53B
<http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page4372.asp>, Laser Pointers classified as a weapon
[Weapons Regulations 1999](#), Schedule II, item 10AA

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