



Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Unit

# OH&S Alert!

## Safe use of Lasers

Laser radiation can be extremely hazardous to the eyes and skin. Use of lasers on building sites must comply with the following standards.

### Classification

Types of laser permitted for use on a building site: Class 1, Class 1M, Class 2, Class 2M and Class 3R.

Class 3B and Class 4 lasers are not permitted for use in the building and construction industry.

### Safety Requirements (from AS 2211)

1. Only qualified and trained personnel should install, adjust and operate laser equipment.
2. Areas in which lasers are used must be posted with appropriate laser warning signs.
3. Wherever practicable, mechanical or electronic means should be used in the alignment of the laser.
4. Precautions need be taken to ensure people don't look directly into the beam.
5. The laser beam should be terminated at the end of its useful beam path and should in all cases be terminated if the hazardous beam path extends beyond the controlled area.
6. The laser beam path should be well above or below eye level.
7. Precautions should be taken to ensure that the laser beam is not directed at mirror-like surfaces.
8. When not in use the laser should be stored in a location where unauthorised personnel cannot gain access.
9. On all sites where a laser is used a Laser Safety Officer with proof of training consistent with the requirements of AS 2397, shall be appointed.



### Training

Training in the safe use of lasers is provided by the CFMEU training unit. Upon completion of the 4 hour course a Statement of Attendance will be issued as proof of training.

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Authorised by Bill Oliver, Secretary, Tommy Watson and John Setka, Assistant Secretaries of the CFMEU  
Construction and General Division.

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