

Laboratory Safety Information Sheet 10

Use of Lasers in Teaching Laboratories

Instructions for Students

This policy relates to the use of lasers in teaching laboratories within the School. All operating procedures shall conform to relevant government legislation, Australian Standards, and University Safety Policy & Guidelines. In particular, the University Radiation Safety Manual should be consulted, where relevant.

1. Study and comply with all precautions specified by the supplier of the laser before using it.
2. Determine if the laser class requires a license from the Radiological Council, and if so, contact the ECU Radiation Safety Officer (Mrs. Doreen Mackie, phone 5556, email d.mackie@ecu.edu.au).
3. Where appropriate, wear protective goggles that offer protection against the specific wavelength of the laser in use.
4. Never look directly at the beam or pump source.
5. Never look at the beam pattern directly.
6. Keep the laser beam at a level lower than human eye height.
7. Keep a high general illumination level to avoid pupil dilation.
8. Display warning signs in laser areas.