



## Policy

Saskatoon & Area - Occupational Health & Safety

**Number:** 53-018

**Title:** Physical Hazard: Lasers

**Saskatchewan Employment Act:** 5-7 to 5-10

**OHS Regulation:**

**Date:** January 1, 2017

**Date Revised/Reaffirmed:** June 7, 2018

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### Purpose

- To comply with current CSA Standards Z386-14 Safe Use of Lasers in Healthcare
- To comply with SHA Laser Safety Policy and Procedure

### Preamble

All workers who operate, assist with, or are considered at risk for exposure to Class 3B and/or Class 4 lasers at work in SHA must comply with the [SHA "Laser Safety" Policy # 7311-60-010](#)

### Roles and Responsibilities

Employer must ensure:

- ABC fire extinguishers (for use on laser equipment) and sterile water/saline (for use on sterile field) should be readily available
- Reflective surfaces need to be kept to a minimum, specifically within the normal hazard zone of the laser. Instruments used during the laser procedure should have a dulled or ebonized finish

Manager/Supervisor must ensure:

- That roles and responsibilities of all workers are being met, as well as applicable legislation and/or standards
- Safe work procedures are written and followed
- Only those directly involved with the procedure should be in attendance
- Keep doors closed and curtains drawn over windows. Doors are to remain closed while the laser is being fired.
- The laser should not be operated in the presence of combustible gas, vapors, solutions or anaesthetic gases. All solutions should be non-alcohol or non-petroleum based.
- Signs are posted on the entrance of the laser room denoting:
  - Laser in use
  - Laser wavelength being utilized
  - Precautions required
- Disposal of debris from laser procedures is performed in a safe manner (refer to OHS Policy 50-002:Waste)

- Appropriate eye protection is required for both workers and patients during procedures using lasers. Protective eyewear should include side guards appropriate for the wavelength and optical density.
  - Keep laser eyewear in a protective case when not in use
  - Laser protective eyewear must be available outside the procedure room for workers who must enter the room during the procedure
  - Discard scratched lenses, protective eyewear lenses must be scratch free
  - Contact lenses are not recommended for use during laser surgery. If contact lenses are chosen to be worn, tight fitting goggles must also be worn.
  - Backstops and guards must be used to protect workers
  - Where a laser procedure emits a laser plume, workers should
    - Wear a well-fitting high filtration surgical mask. VPC: PG4-6003 PRIMAGARD 120SKU88566
    - Wear protective clothing and gloves (class 3B and Class 4 lasers)

Worker must ensure:

- They are trained in laser safety education prior to working with lasers
- They are trained in and follow the safe work procedures
- They are familiar with indications for a laser shutdown (i.e. Fire)
- They are trained in and use any PPE required (selection, use, care and handling)
- They report to their supervisor and the Safety Alert System/Incident Report Line for any incidents or near misses involving lasers

### **Orientation & Training**

- Education, training and safe laser use

### **Materials**

- Appropriate PPE when required

### **Non-Compliance/Breach:**

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a review of the incident. A review for non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment or privileges; fines and /or prosecution of individuals under the Saskatchewan Employment Act and OHS Regulations.

### **References**

- [Regional Laser Safety Policy #7311-60-010](#)

Review Dates:

January 1, 2017

May 22, 2018

June 7, 2018