



Saskatchewan Health Authority

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: December 30, 2021

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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 <https://documentfinder.saskhealthauthority.ca/en>

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

- SHA Laser Safety Policy <https://documentfinder.saskhealthauthority.ca/en>

Review Dates:

January 1, 2017

May 22, 2018

June 7, 2018

December 30, 2021