

12/9/10 **Minutes for the SAC Subcommittee on Laser Safety**

Present: Ken Barat (EH&S), Joel Ager (MSD), Marc Hertlein (ALS), Eddie Ciprazo (UC Berkeley), Mike Carr (BSO), Xianglei Mao (EETD), Andrew Peterson (LSD), Jerry Bucher (CSD), David Littlejohn (EETD)

Agenda:

- (1) Laser user feedback meeting
- (2) Need for additional laser user training?
- (3) Optics hazard document
- (4) Generic restart plan
- (5) LBNL sales of surplus lasers
- (6) Kentek (laser safety vendor) visit
- (7) Other items

Minutes

1. Ken held a meeting for laser users in early October to obtain feedback on their views of laser training and the backgrounds of new laser users arriving at the lab. New users appear to have a wide range of backgrounds, from very little experience to highly experienced. There was no consensus on the need for a hands-on laser training class for new users, in part due to the wide range of laser systems that exist at the lab. Some people felt that new user orientation with laser systems would be best handled through on-the-job training (OJT) so the specific hazards associated with the laser system could be discussed.

2. The committee had additional discussion regarding development of a hands-on laser optics training class to supplement the current laser safety training. Since some users have extensive experience with lasers and optical systems, it would likely not provide any benefit to them. One thought is to establish a class that is optional, with attendance chosen through discussion between the supervisor and the new user. There are a number of issues associated with the class that should be clarified, including topics covered, level of detail on each subject, length of the class, and size of the class.

A space would be needed where the optical system for hands-on training could be located and maintained. As the ALS moves out of Building 7 to their new building, space may become available in 7 for hands-on training. Ken does have some optical components that may be suitable for parts of the system used for training.

3. Ken is finishing up the optics hazard document that he has been developing, and the document should be available for distribution early next year.

4. Ken presented the generic restart plan to be used in the event of a laser accident to the Safety Advisory Committee. It was generally well received. There are still some details associated with the plan that need to be resolved, and Ken will be part of a small group to clarify the plan.

5. Used lasers are one of the items sold as surplus by LBNL, and there was discussion whether the laser safety subcommittee should consider developing a mechanism to assess the laser safety program of the buyer. It was decided that there are a number of potential hazards associated with other excess property that the lab sells, and the potential hazards of lasers can be incorporated in the same process used for hazards of other surplus lab property.

6. Kentek recently demonstrated their laser safety products at LBNL. They only recently added west coast sales reps and had not participated in the last laser vendor fair here.

7. Ken is working with the EH&S IT group to improve the laser AHD and laser inventory so the power and wavelength of the laser in the inventory will automatically generate the needed optical density (O.D.) of the laser protection eyewear.

There is also a glitch in the safety training database that does not link the initial laser training expiration with the retraining for laser safety and its expiration. Ken is working with the IT group so the training database will show when training has expired, whether it is from the initial training or the retraining.

There was also discussion about the need for the initial laser eye exam at LBNL. The latest ANSI standard does not require eye exams for laser users. However, LBNL follows an earlier ANSI standard, and the laser eye exam will remain in place for the time being.