

12/8/11 Minutes for the SAC Subcommittee on Laser Safety

Present: Ken Barat (EH&S), Marcus Hertlein (ALS), Joel Ager (MSD), Jerry Bucher (CSD), Xianglei Mao (EETD), Eddie Ciprazo (UC Berkeley), James Basore (EH&S), David Littlejohn (EETD)

Minutes:

(1) Laser training for non-users of lasers was discussed.

As a reminder, the issue had come up because a facilities person accessed a laser lab without authorization. Ken has developed a Powerpoint presentation for Facilities staff that may need to enter laser labs to complete their work. He is waiting on feedback from them.

It may be possible to add something to the introductory EHS 10 course (given once to new employees), or to other appropriate courses to cover this issue.

(2) There is the potential issue of access to laser labs by emergency responders. Some laser systems are not interlocked, and will not shut off when the door is opened. However, unless a laser system is undergoing alignment, the laser beam is generally well controlled and excessive exposure is unlikely. Ken will be meeting with the LBNL fire department staff to discuss this issue soon. It may be possible to develop a course to familiarize emergency responders with laser lab operations.

(3) Ken provided an update on EH&S developments. The back-up LSO, Shawn Roe, will be leaving at the end of March. A new laser safety refresher course is being developed to replace the current laser safety refresher EHS 281; the new course will better highlight new and important issues. The lab has a new interlock engineer which may weigh in on laser and other interlock issues at the lab in the future. Ken will have an intern in the spring to assist with enhancing the laser safety training. The hands-on laser alignment class is under development in Building 17; Ken is working on a list of equipment needed for the class. There is dedicated space for the course but no appropriate laser table yet.