

6/24/11 Minutes for the SAC Subcommittee on Laser Safety

Present: Ken Barat (EH&S), Xianglei Mao (EETD), Jerry Bucher (CSD), Shawn Roe (EH&S), Mike Carr (BSO), Eddie Ciprazo (UC Berkeley), Richard DeBusk (EH&S), David Littlejohn (EETD)

Minutes:

- (1) The laser reference guide has been published and is available in electronic form, as well as a limited number of hard copies. Initial response has been quite positive.
- (2) There was a near miss at a lab at SLAC recently. A user left an enclosed class 4 laser in the unenclosed state without leaving a warning sign or notifying other users. Another user entered the lab and found the laser on but not enclosed. An ORPS report was prepared, and the lab is working on developing a better process for notification.
- (3) Interlocks: LBNL has an interlock engineer, and he is currently focusing on interlock systems at rad facilities. He can also assist with improving interlocks in laser labs.
A lab in Building 2 has had problems with the entry keypad connected to the laser shutter. They put in a work request, but Facilities was not able to resolve the problem. Ken Barat prepared a temporary work authorization (TWA) for the lab, although the notification and approval process associated with TWAs could be improved. A permanent solution to the interlock issue is still in the works.
- (4) Ken Barat has three summer interns who are visiting laser labs to update the laser inventory, check on laser labeling, and gather information on the systems in the labs.
- (5) The development of the hands-on laser training lab in Building 17 is progressing. Ken has an optical breadboard and a number of optical components. Once a suitable table for the breadboard is installed, optical systems for hands-on training can be set up.
- (6) There was significant earthquake damage to some of the laser labs in northern Japan. LBNL has seismic requirements for laser tables, and as with other heavy items, lasers 3 feet above the floor are required to have some seismic restraint.
- (7) Other: Ken was an invited keynote speaker at a laser safety conference in Sweden. His talk was well received, and he is glad to see that laser safety is getting increasing awareness in Europe.