

**9/19/11      Minutes for the SAC Subcommittee on Laser Safety**

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

Minutes:

- (1) Besides the recent near miss at SLAC, there was a laser accident at Idaho National Laboratory. At ONL, a worker received second-degree burns on his hand from a 2500W 10.6 $\mu$ m CO<sub>2</sub> laser beam. It appears that improper controls were used with the system. A full investigation is under way. Additional information will be available once the investigation is complete.
- (2) Ken has organized another laser vendor fair for September 27 in the cafeteria. Thirteen vendors will participate, including laser eyewear and safety vendors. Ken has additional beam blocks from Newport, and they will be distributed this week to interested individuals.
- (3) Interlocks: The summer interns did a survey of the laser labs. Very few issues with the interlocks were reported. The new LBNL interlock engineer does plan to survey the laser interlocks in the future, and he intends to compile the wiring schematics for the interlock systems in one location. This will make it review the interlocks.
- (4) The development of the hands-on laser training lab in Building 17 is still in progress. The laser table that had been available did not have suitable legs and could not be used. Ken is in the process of obtaining an optical breadboard that can be installed more easily. There are number of optical components available for use once the breadboard is installed.
- (5) The laser reference guide has been well received. Ken is contemplating a similar document for laser laboratory design.
- (6) There was discussion regarding the new laser safety door signs. Some signs have the statement "Authorized Personnel Only" and others do not. It may not be clear what the term "authorized" refers to, and how an individual becomes "authorized". If people are "authorized" for entry to a lab, does a list of "authorized" staff need to be posted? If so, how can the list be kept up-to-date? We plan to continue discussion on this topic by email, and re-visit the subject at the next meeting.
- (7) The issue of providing basic laser training for non-laser users was discussed. Is such training beneficial to staff who do not work in laser labs? If it is implemented, what format would be used, and what topics should the training cover? It was decided that additional discussion would be helpful in making a decision on this matter, and it will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- (8) The Fire Department has had discussions with Ken regarding emergency access to labs with non-interlocked lasers in use. There is no current guidance on the procedure for entering such a lab. The question was raised of possibly providing unique marking on the entries of these labs so suitable procedures could be taken when entering. The subject will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The attempt at establishing video conferencing for the meeting was not successful, so Joel Ager was not able to participate. We will need guidance from the video conferencing technicians on how to set the system up.