

## Meeting 4/20/06 SRC Subcommittee on Laser Safety

Present:

Larry McLouth (EHS), Robert Schoenlein (MSD), Eddie Ciprazo (UCB), Richard Kadel (PHNRD), Marc Hertlein (CSD), Paul Blodgett (EHS).

Agenda:

- (1) Update on EH&S response to BSO on recent laser safety issues (Larry)
- (2) Discussion of MSD Report on laser safety problems (Larry, Bob)
- (3) Discussion of goals for LBNL laser safety program

Plan for calculation of MPEs for inclusion in AHD and for safety table to post in laser labs (Marc)

Plan for establishing a repository (web site) for laser safety information (Larry, Marc)

Minutes:

- (1) Larry reported that 3 corrective actions remain due to BSO. The remaining action items are:
  - (a) laser safety walkthroughs and inventory verification – MSD is done, CSD is in progress. Progress is slow due to lack of manpower. BSO has agreed on a verification criterion for the laser inventory.
  - (b) regarding the interlock issue from Nov. 2005 - an ORPS report has been filed, and a 'lessons learned' from the MSD laser safety report will be distributed. A laser interlock task for
  - (c) BSO has agreed to extend the deadline for the walkthroughs with the following conditions:
    - (i) that the walkthroughs be completed by the end of Sept. 2006
    - (ii) that a date be established for hiring an LSO

(2) The MSD Report on laser safety problems has not been formally issued yet. One of the main issues in the report is the lack of adherence to the AHDs by the respective research groups and PI's. The report will re-iterate the previous recommendation from the Laser Safety Committee that formal AHD reviews be conducted every three years. This recommendation is now in John Seabury's hands. There was some discussion of how this might overlap with the IFA (integrated functional appraisals) that are conducted every three years. The conclusion was that the AHD review is much more specific, and needs to be done independent of the IFAs.

A second issue raised in the MSD Report on laser safety problems is the issue of delegation of responsibility. Often, responsibility for the AHD (writing, renewing, implementing etc.) is effectively delegated to postdocs or graduate students. At present, there is no clear laboratory policy on this. The responsibility of the PI is certainly indicated when they sign the AHD, but the significance of the AHD as a 'contract' that defines the laser hazards and how they are to be mitigated, needs to be re-emphasized to the PIs.

- (3) Larry presented an outline for an LBNL Laser Safety website including:
- (a) online eyewear OD calculator (note: eyewear purchases still require LSO approval)
  - (b) links to eyewear vendors
  - (c) links to vendors of beam viewing devices
  - (d) information on laser beam enclosures, barriers, stops, dumps etc.
  - (e) laser safety resources
  - (f) step-by-step instructions to satisfy the safety requirements for new laser use at LBNL
  - (g) AHD database
  - (h) Pub 3000 link
  - (i) LBNL laser safety signs and labels
  - (j) LBNL laser safety points of contact.

The website is now under construction (<http://www.lbl.gov/ehs/ih/lasers/index.shtml>), and information for the various areas is being collected.