

Meeting 8/23/06 SRC Subcommittee on Laser Safety

Present:

Ken Barat (EH&S), Joel Ager (MSD), Robert Schoenlein (MSD), Eddie Ciprazo (UCB), Richard Kadel (PHNRD), Xianglei Mao (EETD), Paul Blodgett (EH&S), Neil Landau (BSO).

Agenda:

- (1) update on BSO action items (Larry)
- (2) discussion of changing course description and Pub. 3000 description of EH&S-287 (LSO observation of laser alignment)
- (3) discussion of policy for checking laser interlocks

Minutes

- (1) update on BSO action items (Larry)

Laser inventory is complete. QA process (data verification) is now underway, and is due by Aug. 30.

Lab inspections (due Aug. 30) are now done.

Interlock standardization is due by Aug. 31. Drawings have been distributed to several users for comments. Three interlock options have been evaluated (a) Kentek, (b) LBNL design, and (c) Rockwell. For future interlock installation, users will be encouraged to choose one of the top two.

There is a total of 28 action items that are being addressed by the laser safety program. These will be evaluated in Oct. 2006 by subject matter experts from DOE Oak Ridge site office during a visit to LBNL.

Note: May 2006, Oak-Ridge operational awareness visit resulted in 5 additional recommendations. July 2005 visit by Oak Ridge site office subject-matter expert resulted in 7 additional recommendations

- (2) discussion of changing course description and Pub. 3000 description of EH&S-287 (LSO observation of laser alignment)

There was considerable discussion about EH&S-287 (LSO observation of laser alignment). Ken Barat raised concerns that the present description of this course in Pub3000 indicates that this course provides hands-on training (by the LSO) on laser alignment. This is clearly not appropriate as the LSO is not familiar with the details of specific laser experiments in specific labs.

Bob pointed out that the language in Pub3000 does not accurately reflect the recommendation of the Laser Safety Committee (July 20, 2005 minutes). The clear recommendation of the committee was that EH&S-287 consists of LSO laser lab *visit*, and *observation* of alignment procedures. The training system was to be used essentially as a means of documenting the LSO visits and to insure that every user be visited by the LSO. Bob also relayed some strong objections to the present policy (voiced by PI's in LBNL-CSD). Their objection is that the present policy puts undue burden on the laser users, as well as on the division, for insuring that the visits happen. The visits should really be the responsibility of the LSO. Moreover, this further adds to the documentation burden (and possibilities for penalties or demerits) for the divisions, as they are held responsible for insuring that all their employees have completed the required "training".

Ken proposed that these visits be removed from the training program, and that the LSO be directly responsible for periodically visiting the laser labs and users and insuring that safety procedures are being followed. There was general agreement on this approach, but the details need to be worked out. In particular, it was strongly recommended that there be a clear record for documenting these visits. Ken was in favor of this as well, and would like to create a system to not only document that dates of the visits, but to add the possibility of recording brief notes (e.g. of what was observed, who was there, problems etc.) at the discretion of the LSO. Ken will have present a more detailed proposal of how this might be accomplished for discussion at the next meeting.

(3) discussion of policy for checking laser interlocks

Ken Barat proposed that:

- (a) interlock checks should apply only to room access interlocks
- (b) interlock checks be the responsibility of the laser users, and that they write a interlock check procedure to be included in the laser AHD
- (c) interlocks are to be checked every 6 months (one check will coincide with the AHD renewal)
- (d) documentation of the interlock checks will be in a form or log sheet to be kept in the individual laser labs

One suggestion was that the log sheet, or interlock check, be incorporated in the AHD so that there is an electronic record. There was general agreement by the Laser Safety Committee on the proposed policy, including the incorporation of the documentation of laser interlock checks within the electronic AHD database.

(4) Miscellaneous

Ken Barat requested that the committee discuss formulating a policy on unattended lasers

Ken reported that he intends to update all the 'paper' laser warning signs so that they include only wavelength and necessary eyewear optical density. All the other information is confusing, unnecessary, and is not consistent throughout the laser labs.