Meeting 3/16/06 SRC Subcommittee on Laser Safety

Present:

Larry McLouth (EHS), Robert Schoenlein (MSD), Eddie Ciprazo (UCB), Neil Landau (BSO), Marc Hertlein (CSD).

Agenda:

(1) Update on EH&S response to BSO on recent laser safety issues (Larry)
    laser inventory – required data, verification etc.
    field inspection of all LBNL laser labs etc.
(2) Update on implementing new laser questions in JHQ (Larry)
(3) Discussion of proposed policy defining LBNL laser safety responsibilities on campus
(4) Consolidation of training requirements (Larry)
    EHS 280, 3 hours classroom training. Refresher required every 3 years (EHS 281)
    EHS 287. Observation of alignment procedure by LSO
    EHS 288. Laser eye exam
    EHS 289 Laser Safety Awareness, 1 hour video
(5) Discussion of goals for LBNL laser safety program

Minutes:

(1) Larry reported that our of 9 corrective actions due to BSO, 4 are completed. 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
(b) laser inventory data to be verified:
    laser manufacturer, serial number, location, class IIIb or IV
    agreement still needs to be made with BSO
(c) BSO is satisfied with amplifier policy

(2) The new laser questions are now implemented in the JHQ. Laser supervisors should check the training profiles of their laser users and have them re-take the JHQ if necessary

(3) 10 CFR 851 is now in effect. It does not appear to address the specific issues of safety responsibility for LBNL employees working off-site (of particular concern are LBNL employees working with lasers on campus). The committee agreed to recommend the previously-discussed policy (defining LBNL laser safety responsibilities on campus) to the LBNL Safety Review Committee.

(4) Larry McLouth discussed the consolidation of some of the laser safety training. Specifically incorporating EH&S 289 (laser safety refresher video) into EH&S 280 (standard laser safety class).

(5) Two new goals were identified as a means to improve laser safety at the lab.

(a) Identify a convenient means for calculating maximum permissible exposures (MPE) for various laser conditions. The goal is to have this available to users to include in the AHD and to prepare a convenient chart (customized for each lab) that would be posted and accessible during laser operation. All of the MPE calculations would need to be verified by the LSO. Marc Hertlein will look into this and discuss at the next meeting.

(b) Development of an information repository (possibly a web site) specifically on LBNL Laser Safety. The first step is to develop a convenient and accessible repository, and Larry McLouth will look into this. The next step will be to identify useful information to be included in the repository, and come up with a plan for collecting such information. Some ideas that were discussed include:

simple guide to prepare an AHD

information to facilitate the use of beam enclosures by users (vendors, designs, photos, contact info for other laser groups using enclosures etc.)

vendors and examples of remote viewing devices, evaluations of devices used by other laser groups

general laser safety vendor information for eyewear, enclosures, remote viewing devices etc
contact info of other LBNL laser users

Means of collecting information: safety circle, best practices meetings for laser users (technology, techniques etc)