

Regulations on lasers

Art. 1

Scope

These Regulations apply to the importation and use of lasers in categories 3R, 3B and 4 according to the international system of classification of laser devices under standard No. ÍST-EN 60825-1.

The Regulations do not apply to lasers intended for applications where it is ensured that radiation of eyes or skin is within MPE safety limits stated in standard No. ÍST-EN 60825-1, nor to lasers intended for use in medical treatments.

The implementation of these Regulations is handled by the Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority.

Art. 2

Definitions

Terms are used in these Regulations as follows:

High-powered laser: a laser more powerful than 1 mW (milliWatt). Such lasers are classified in categories 3R, 3B or 4, according to the system of categories set out in standard No. ÍST-EN 60825-1.

Laser pointer: a portable battery-powered laser. Laser pointers are primarily intended for use by lecturers, but also exist as toys. Laser pointers require no special installation.

MPE [Maximum Permissible Exposure] limits: Safety limits stated in standard No. ÍST-EN 60825-1. If radiation is below this level, it should not be capable of causing damage to eyes or skin.

Art. 3

Importation

Importation of a high-powered laser must be notified to the relevant authority.

A party intending to import a high-powered laser into Iceland, including high-powered laser pointers, shall notify the Radiation Safety Authority before the importation takes place.

Notifications shall be made using the relevant form provided by the Authority, or in some other manner approved by the Authority.

Art. 4

Use subject to permit

The use of a high-powered laser, including that of a high-powered laser pointer, is prohibited without a permit from the Radiation Safety Authority.

An importer which sells or delivers a high-powered laser shall apply for a permit to the Radiation Safety Authority, and it may only be delivered to a user which holds a permit for its use from the Authority.

Applications for a permit to use a high-powered laser shall be submitted using the relevant form provided by the Authority, or in another manner approved by the Authority. Permits are valid for a period of five years at a time.

The application for a permit must be accompanied by the following information:

- a) description of intended use, including the necessity for the laser to be high-powered, and the applicant's knowledge of lasers and their use;
- b) technical data on the laser, including details of wavelength and power;
- c) information on the equipment used to control, disperse or otherwise influence the ray, as applicable. If motion is used to keep radiation below designated

d)

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diagram of the area clearly indicating the location of the laser, and of all objects that may affect the path of the ray, if the usage is as lighting equipment in a place open to the public.

It is prohibited to alter a previously-agreed installation of lighting equipment with a laser, without the consent of the Radiation Safety Authority.

Those who have been granted a permit to use a high-powered laser must not pass the laser on to any party who has not been granted a permit from the Radiation Safety Authority to use the laser.

The Radiation Safety Authority may issue guidelines on the use of lasers.

Art. 5

Safety rules and designated supervisor

Before a permit is granted for use of a high-powered laser as lighting equipment at a place open to the public, the applicant shall have written safety rules drawn up in consultation with the Radiation Safety Authority. The applicant shall also appoint a supervisor for the laser equipment, and the appointment must be approved by the Authority.

The designated supervisor shall have adequate knowledge of the equipment in question, and the safety measures necessary to ensure the safety of staff and audience. The supervisor is responsible for ensuring compliance with all safety rules applying to the activity under the permit.

Art. 6

Penalties

The Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority can revoke a permit under art. 4 if the conditions on which it was granted are no longer met.

Violations of these Regulations entail penalties as provided in Article 22 of the Radiation Safety Act no. 44/2002, with subsequent amendments.

Art. 7

Entry into force

These Regulations enter into force immediately. The Regulations are issued on the basis of provisions in paragraph 4 of Article 7, paragraph 2 of Article 9 and Article 21 of the Radiation Safety Act No. 44/2002, with subsequent amendments. At the same time Regulations No. 120/1988 on laser equipment are abrogated.

Art. 8

Temporary provisions

Parties already using lasers which fall within the scope of these Regulations shall apply to the Radiation Safety Authority for a permit for continuing use within 90 days of the Regulations' entry into force.

Ministry of Welfare, 2011