

Laser Safety Training FAQs
5/14/2021

Question: What is the difference between User/Non-User and operator/non-operator on the [Laser Laboratory Based Training Form](#)?

Answer: User is anyone who may be in the lab while the laser is on/operating.

Non-User is anyone who will never be present in the lab when the laser is on.

Operator is a User who actually controls the laser.

Non-Operators are Users who just observe while the laser is on.

Note: EHS Radiation Safety is interested in the User and Non-User designations only. Operator/Non-Operator are designations for the PLR if they choose to use them.

Question: If I work in a lab that owns a laser, what training do I need?

Answer: Laser Non-User Training

- Lab-Based: Laser Non-Users must complete the first set of topics on the Laser Laboratory Based Training Form with the primary laser researcher (PLR), or laser lab supervisor, who signs the form prior to submitting it to EHS.

Non-Users are not required by Radiation Safety to take the online initial training.

Laser User Training

- Lab-Based: Laser Users must complete the first and second set of topics on the Laser Laboratory Based Training Form with the PLR, who signs the form prior to submitting it to EHS.
- Initial: Laser Users are required to complete the online Laser Safety Initial training course. Training registration links and forms can be found on the EHS website: <https://ehs.uconn.edu/training/>
- Refresher: Laser Safety Refresher Training is required to be completed once every three years.

Question: If I am a trained laser Non-User and my supervisor and I agree I should now be a User because I must be in the lab while the laser is running or I need to work with the laser in research, what additional training do I need?

Answer: First, immediately upon deciding a change in status from Non-User to User, the PLR should modify the status to laser User in HuskySMS.

- Lab-Based: A new Laser Laboratory Based Training Form is required with both the first and second portions for Users completed and signed by the PLR prior to submitting to EHS.
- Initial: The lab member must complete the Laser Safety online training prior to being in the lab while the laser is running.
- Refresher: Laser Safety Refresher Training is required to be completed once every three years.

Question: I have a researcher visiting my lab and who will be observing an experiment with the laser in use. Should they complete the form?

Answer: If they will be observing the laser, they need to complete the Laser Safety training online and complete a lab-based checklist for users as a non-operator. Visiting researchers may obtain a NetID through the ITS website: <https://confluence.uconn.edu/ikb/accounts-and-netid/netid/sponsoring-accounts>. Sponsoring Affiliate Accounts are for temporary visitors up to 12 months.

Question: Where can I find the Laser Laboratory Based Training Form?

Answer: The Laser Laboratory Based Training Form is an electronic lab-based training form and is located on the EHS website:
<http://media.ehs.uconn.edu/Radiation/Laser/LaserSafetyLabBasedTrainingCheckList.pdf>

The form may be completed, signed, and submitted to EHS online by the PLR. The form locks after the PLR signs so no additional changes can be made. The form will be submitted to EHS automatically when using the “E-mail Form” button on the form.

Note: The Laser Laboratory Based Training Form must always be signed by the equipment supervisor/PLR. This signifies that the supervisor conducted the training in-person with the individual. The lab member is not the one signing off on their own training.

Question: Where do I find information on laser beam maximum permissible exposure (MPE)?

Answer: Information on how to calculate a laser’s MPE during operation is documented in the ANSI Z136.1-2014 standard. The LSO may be contacted to help with this calculation.