

Patient Guide to Medical Clearance for Laser Operators

Effective June 13, 2016, Research Laser Safety Committee (RLSC) has mandated that any UW student, faculty, or staff member requesting access to a 3B or 4 Lasers receive a Medical Clearance through Occupational Medicine (OM).

This policy is intended to protect the eye health of campus Laser Operators (LO) and confirm that the individual and the university have met the medical requirements of ANSI Standard Z136.1-2014 governing the safe use of lasers. Direct and indirect exposure to 3B and 4 lasers have the potential to cause significant eye injury.

Complete the following steps for a medical clearance to work with lasers:

1. Log on to MyUHS (<https://myuhs.uhs.wisc.edu>)
2. Click Medical Clearances (left column)
Update:
 - OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE: Privacy Notice and Consent to Treat
 - OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE: Authorization for Release of Occupational Health Records
3. Call (608) 265-5610 to schedule a Laser Operator Eye Exam Appointment. The OM clinic is located at University Health Services (UHS), 6th floor Green.
4. Please bring your current glasses or contacts and vision correction prescription as your corrected and uncorrected vision will be tested.
5. Complete a questionnaire at your appointment Check-In to help identify pre-existing health issues which may place you at increased risk of eye damage due to work with lasers
6. Occupational Medicine will conduct a baseline vision screen which includes near and far vision test and screening for macular degeneration (using the Amsler Grid) and color blindness.
7. If your examination results are normal, you will be cleared to work with lasers and no further action is needed. Occupational Medicine will send your laser medical clearance to you and the Office of Radiation Safety (ORS) via a secure message.
8. If your examination results are abnormal, you may be referred to an ophthalmologist for a "UW Laser exam".
9. A follow-up examination is only required in the case of an injury or if you would choose to have a follow-up exam upon conclusion of your Laser work.

Additional Information- Safety Glasses

- The OM department can assist with getting Safety Glasses if they are required as a condition for your work.
- The Laser Operator (LO) must get a valid, current prescription from their personal optometrist prior to their appointment.
- An Optometric Technician will advise the LO on appropriate eyewear for this environment,

offer eyewear choices, and place the order for them.

- Once the glasses have been produced (generally within 2 weeks) the LO will be contacted to make a follow-up appointment where the glasses will be fitted to the LO and any relevant safety instructions communicated.
- Charges for these safety glasses are the responsibility of the UW department sponsoring the Laser work.

The principal investigator, supervisor or safety coordinator can contact the UW Environmental Health and Safety- Radiation Safety (EHS-RS) group at (608) 265-5000 for advice and/or assistance in procurement of other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Laser Safety trainings.