Section 3

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**POLICY, STANDARDS, AND REGULATIONS**

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3.1 Policy

The policy is to limit exposure to personnel from Class 3B and Class 4 laser radiation to levels as low as reasonably achievable; however, under no circumstances is exposure to exceed appropriate State or Federal regulatory limits.

To implement this policy, LSU Radiation Safety Office has set up a laser safety program to ensure:

* + The use of equipment which produces laser radiation within LSU System for official business is used in a manner that will minimize risks to health and safety of the faculty, staff, students, and the general public.
  + The identification of laser hazards.
  + The prompt investigation of all reported laser radiation over‑exposures and the establishment of immediate corrective action to prevent their recurrence.
  + The maintenance of an accurate inventory for accountability of the hazardous lasers within the LSU System.

3.2 Standards

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) currently has two standards applicable to Louisiana State University’s Laser Safety Program. The first is ANSI Z136.1-2007, titled “American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers”. Its predecessor and the one which it replaced, is ANSI Z136.1 2000. The second is ANSI Z136.5-2009, titled “American National Standard for Safe Use of Lasers in Educational Institutions”.

ANSI Z136.1-2007 is widely recognized as the industry standard since it is considered to be the most comprehensive publication for laser safety.

The Center For Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) is a branch of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The CDRH enforces the Federal Laser Product Performance Standard which directs manufacturers of lasers to ensure that lasers introduced into commerce meet safety and performance requirements

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such as laser energy output, interlocks, classification, and warning labels. The CDRH requires registration of laser products manufactured and sold in the US or imported into the US.

3.3 Regulations

The state of Louisiana has no regulations regarding laser safety at this time. However, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) addresses laser hazards in specific standards for the general industry.