

Question:

My question is concerning the ANSI Standard Z136.1-2000, and temporary barriers while performing service or calibration of the laser. Our company operates a number of lasers, manufacturing medical devices and when operating the laser is Class # 1, with the beam enclosed in a stainless steel housing, with a laser glass cover and aluminum side door which are both interlocked to close when the shutter is opened. During servicing, we set up a temporary control area with laser barriers and proper signing warning people not to enter the area, Class 4 laser.

The question I have is when the temporary control area is set up, the personnel that are performing service are trained, have the appropriate safety eyewear and equipment, the laser barrier is installed, **are we also required to have a light visible or audible signal indicating the laser is energized and operating at Class 4 level?**

Response:

There is no requirement for a "light or audible signal indicating the laser is energized and operating at Class 4 levels" when a temporary controlled area is devised. The premise of section 4.3.12 (Temporary Laser Controlled Area) is that a special procedure is being performed and as such, "Such an area, which by its nature will not have the built-in protective features as defined for a laser controlled area, shall provide all safety requirements for all personnel, both within and outside the area."

However, the committee stresses that, "A Notice sign (see section 4.7.3.3) shall be posted outside the temporary laser controlled area to warn of the potential hazard."

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