



Date: August 13, 2013
Memo to: Ms. Sharon Shindel
From: Dr. Benjamin Rockwell, Chair SSC-1 (Safe Use of Lasers) with collaboration of Mr. William Ertle, Chair TSC-4 (Control Measures and Training) and Mr. Darrell Seeley, Secretary TSC-4
Subject: Clarification: Posting of Signage

Question/Comment

ANSI Z136.1-2007 Section 4.3.9.1 requires a NOTICE sign posted outside a Temporary LCA for Class 3B and Class 4 lasers.

Section 4.7.3.3 requires the same NOTICE sign but also states that the area outside the LCA will be Class 1 and the area within is class 3B or 4 and the appropriate danger warning is required within the temporary laser controlled area.

However, it's not clear if we should post a DANGER or CAUTION sign inside the LCA? Most temp curtains I've seen don't have a pocket to place a sign on the inside of the curtain, and typically signage in the form of stickers would already be present on the laser itself.

So – is general practice only to post the NOTICE sign outside, or do people also post an additional DANGER sign inside when doing temporary work? If so do you have any best practices for how to manage the additional sign?

ANSI Z136 SSC-1 Response

Ms. Shindel, following is my explanation to your question- this is not coordinated within my subcommittee or with other subcommittees, as this is not required for a question deemed an explanation. As stated in Section 4.3.10.1(2) in ANSI Z136.1-2007, the posting of signs within the laser controlled area (LCA) is not required, but may be posted at the discretion of the LSO. Signage is normally intended to communicate to personnel entering the LCA to be aware of the presence of and to describe the hazards within the LCA. The use of any signage within the LCA would only be warranted if the LSO personnel within the LCA might need that additional reminder (e.g. don't work often in that work area). In most situations such as the one you describe, the standard practice is to display the Notice sign along with the DANGER or CAUTION sign external to the LCA and have no signage within the LCA. Note that the ANSI Z136.1 standard is a little inconsistent on these points- in section 4.7.3.3 there is a comment in a note that the DANGER or CAUTION signs are required in some circumstances. Because Section 4.3.10.1(2) gives the discretion to the LSO and is within the main text of the standard and the text in Section 4.7.3.3 is in a note (with is non-normative), I feel the overall Z136.1-2007 text allows room for the LSO to have discretion to determine the need for such signage, and I feel the standard practice is not to have a



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sign in the LCA. Please note this is my opinion, and it does not necessarily represent the opinion of my employer or the ANSI Z136 SSC-1 subcommittee.

Please note that an "explanation" which as defined in our processes relates to a simple clarification of a portion of a standard as it is written, e.g., a clarification of a definition, a simple request for assistance in calculations based on tabular material. An explanation does not address the implication or intent of a portion of the standard. This was deemed to not need an "interpretation"- which relates to the implication or intent of a portion of a standard as it applies to a specific application, i.e., it is a unique form of commentary on a standard; it can only discuss, address, and clarify what the standard currently says. Also, I have noted the inconsistency in our standard on this topic and will inject into our review and release in a future version of the standard.



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