

Risk Assessment – Schools & Public Activity

ACTIVITY ASSESSED Lasers at the Planetarium & Observatory		ASSESSMENT DATE November 2006 (last reviewed: January 2010 , EJR)	
ACTIVITY LOCATION Wynyard Woodland Park		ASSESSED BY Ed Restall Planetarium Director	
HAZARD	Who's at risk?	PRECAUTIONS	RISK LEVEL
1mW Red laser diode (Class 2) 630-680nm CW.	All visitors to the planetarium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lasers only of danger to eyesight if pointed deliberately straight into some ones eye for a continuous period of time. Lasers only of danger to skin cells if pointed in close contact with the skin for a prolonged time. Laser sources kept in the private office and only used in the auditorium by planetarium presenters for shows. Close supervision if used by GCSE school groups within the auditorium for teaching purposes. 	Low
5mW to 50mW Green laser diode (Class 3R to 3B) 532nm CW.	All visitors to night-time outside observing events. Plus aircraft.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lasers are only used and handled by experienced planetarium staff familiar with laser safety. Lasers are only pointed skywards to locate objects in the night sky for the public to observe and for short bursts. When not in use the lasers are securely locked away. Lasers are never pointed into the sky when aircraft are around. Lasers are not used inside and are never pointed at fixed objects that can cause specula reflection of the CW source. Lasers are never pointed at anyone & contact with eyes and skin are avoided at all times. 	Medium
5mW to 50mW above Green laser diodes (Class 3R to 3B) 532nm CW.	All visitors to night-time outside observing events. Plus aircraft.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Some approved volunteers posses their own laser pointers to assist with public observing (at present none exceed 30mW), they are made aware of all of the above risk management and verbally instructed on when it is appropriate to use these lasers. They are also asked to read laser safety information links below. Members of the public are not encouraged to bring their own laser pointers (of any Class) and are asked not to use them should they bring them to events. 	Medium
Class 4 laser sources.	N/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Class 3B exceeding 50mW and Class 4 lasers are not allowed on the site. 	N/A

Further Laser Pointer Safety Information:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/radiation/nonionising/faqs.htm>

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733794576

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laser_safety

<http://www.faa.gov/library/reports/medical/oamtechreports/2000s/media/0107.pdf>