



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

## Laser Safety Program Policy

The primary objective of the Augusta University (AU) laser safety program is to ensure that no laser radiation in excess of the maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limit reaches the human eye or skin. Additionally, the program is designed to ensure that adequate protection against collateral hazards is provided. These collateral hazards include, but are not limited to, the risk of electrical shock, fire hazard from a beam or from use of dyes and solvents, chemical exposure from use of chemicals and vaporization of targets, and the emission of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation from power supplies associated with the operation of the laser or laser system.

To achieve this objective, AU requires that all Class 3B and Class 4 lasers and laser systems operate in accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z136.1-2014 Safe Use of Lasers, ANSI Z136.5-2009 Safe Use of Lasers in Educational Institutions, ANSI Z136.3-2011 Safe Use of Lasers in Health Care, ANSI Z136.8-2012 Safe Use of Lasers in Research, Development, or Testing, and applicable federal and state regulations. As such, AU adopts ANSI Z136.1-2014, ANSI Z136.5-2009, ANSI Z136.3-2011, and ANSI Z136.8-2012 as the basis of its laser safety program.

A Laser Safety Subcommittee (LSS) has been established to provide oversight and policy guidance of the laser safety program. Additionally, the LSS assists in the education and approval of laser users.

The Laser Safety Officer (LSO) has the authority to suspend, restrict, or terminate the operation of a laser system if it is deemed that laser hazard controls are inadequate or the method of operation presents a threat to human health, property, or the environment. This authority is granted by the President of AU. All Class 3B and Class 4 lasers at AU shall be registered with the LSO and the LSS. The LSO will register these systems with the Georgia Department of Community Health. The LSO will conduct a laser hazard assessment and it will be the responsibility of the Principal Laser User (PLU) to correct any safety deficiencies identified in the hazard assessment. This laser safety program applies to all AU locations, including mobile and temporary field locations.