

METROLOGY RESOURCE CO

LASER SAFETY

MRC's laser sensors are low power and put out about the same power levels as the laser pointers that have become quite common. These devices are potentially hazardous only when the beam enters the eye directly or through optics such as mirrors. Scattered light or light striking the skin is not classified as hazardous.

Laser Classes

All lasers are subject to safety regulations. In the USA laser devices are divided into classes based on the power of the laser and the potential exposure duration. Class I devices are eye-safe under any circumstances. The maximum permissible output varies with the laser light frequency and other factors. Class II devices are visible lasers with output of less than 1 milli-watt. The MRL lasers are Class II devices.

If class II Laser beams are directly viewed for long periods of time (i.e. > 15 minutes) damage to the eyes could result. Avoid looking into a Class II Laser beam or pointing a Class II laser beam into another person's eyes. Avoid viewing Class II laser beams with telescopic devices. Usually the bright light of a Class II Laser beam into a person's eyes will cause the normal reaction of looking away or closing of the eyes. This response is normal and protects a person from Class II Laser damage to the eyes

Helpful links for laser safety;

Consult the OSHA website for laser safety hazards.

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/laserhazards/>

For Europe, the guiding regulation is EC 602825-1

http://www.iec-normen.de/previewpdf/info_iec60825-1%7Bed1.2%7Den.pdf

[University of Illinois](http://www.drs.illinois.edu/rss/lasers/index.aspx?tbID=lsr) <http://www.drs.illinois.edu/rss/lasers/index.aspx?tbID=lsr>

Laser Institute of America: <http://www.laserinstitute.org/>

To purchase placards, safety glasses and other gear for your laser operations, try the Rockwell Laser Industries website: <http://www.rli.com/>

Metrology Resource Co
P.O. Box 396, Ortonville, MI, 48462
Phone: 246-628-8671 Fax: 248-274-3088