

Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Radiation Control
Nonionizing Radiation

Pursuant to Chapter 501.122, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 64E-4, Florida Administrative Code, all laser devices, except those exempted below, must be registered by the State of Florida. This applies to both users and manufacturers.

DEFINITIONS:

Medium - A substance that can provide gain for laser oscillation. Common examples are Argon, Krypton, Argon-Krypton, Nd-YAG, Helium-Neon, and Dye.

Pulse Duration - The time increment measured between the half-peak power points at the leading and trailing edges of a pulse.

Continuous Wave (CW) - A laser operating with a continuous output for a time period greater than or equal to 0.25 seconds. Lasers with outputs shorter than 0.25 seconds are classified as pulsed lasers. Some lasers with variable length outputs can fit into both the CW and pulsed categories.

Wave Length - The distance measured between two points on a (periodic) wave which have the same phase, usually measured in nanometers (nm). The visible light spectrum (the colors blue, green, yellow, orange, and red) corresponds to waves having wavelengths between 400nm and 700nm.

Power - The time rate at which energy is given off, usually measured in watts (W). Pulsed lasers are not often labeled with their output power. Instead they are labeled with the output energy of each pulse, usually measured in joules (J) or millijoules (mJ).

CLASS IV LASER DEVICES: Class IV laser devices or products are those with an output power of greater than or equal to 0.5 watts. Examples of some class IV laser devices are all types of medical laser surgery devices, advanced laser light show devices, laser cutters and drilling devices and laser welding devices.

CLASS IIIB LASER DEVICES: Class IIIB laser devices or products are those with an output of greater than 0.005 watts, but less than 0.5 watts. Examples of some class IIIB devices are some small laser light shows, surveying devices, range finders, construction units, and road grading equipment.

DETERMINING CLASS OF LASER DEVICE:

If your laser device class is not known you may find the class label on the housing of the laser device, or inquire from the manufacturer.

EXEMPT FROM REGISTRATION:

All Class I, II, IIA, and IIIA laser products, except for those that allow access to other classes of radiation during servicing, are exempted from registration and regulation, provided that the laser product is maintained as a Class I, II, IIA, or IIIA laser product throughout its useful life. These regulations do not apply to lasers in storage, during shipment or sale, provided such lasers are inoperable or not operated.

COMPLETING REGISTRATION FORMS:

The enclosed form must be filled out completely. A laser safety officer must be designated, and listed on the registration form. A laser safety officer (LSO) means any individual, qualified by training and experience in the evaluation and control of laser hazards, who is designated by the registrant and has the authority and responsibility to establish and administer the laser radiation protection program for a particular facility or a particular mobile laser.

REGISTRATION OF OUT-OF-STATE LASER RADIATION SOURCES:

Pursuant to Chapter 64E-4.005, Florida Administrative Code requires any person proposing to bring any laser device (in classes other than those exempt from registration) into the State, for temporary or permanent use (i.e. entertainment lasers for laser light shows, etc.) must give written notice to the Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control a minimum of 20 days prior to such device being used in the State.

REGISTRATION OF DEVICES AT SEPARATE LOCATION:

A separate registration is required for each location with a laser device. Subsequent registrations for each facility or mobile laser facility are required whenever additional laser devices are installed, or whenever previously registered laser devices are disposed of, altered, destroyed or moved to new locations.

DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATION OF LASER DEVICES AND PRODUCTS:

Registration of laser devices and products must be submitted to the department within 30 days after acquisition of the laser device or products.

REGISTRATION FEE:

None

FREQUENCY OF REGISTRATION:

This is intended to be a one time only registration; however, if a laser device or product is altered, moved to another location, destroyed or sold, the Department must be notified and the device needs to be registered by the new owner or removed from the registration when destroyed.

RETURN FORM TO:

Department of Health
Bureau of Radiation Control
Laser Registration
Bin C21
4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1741

Please mail both the white and yellow copies of the form to the Department. When laser registration forms have been processed, the yellow copy will be returned to you for proof of registration.