

LU03 Introduction

Common light sources vary in output power, wavelength, energy, operating mode, and efficiency. Lamps, lasers, and LEDs are all bright light sources that could potentially injure humans if certain precautions are not taken. Lasers being one of the most dangerous light sources on Earth. Lasers can blind and burn in less than a second, so a great respect of the equipment must be had when operating them. In this learning unit we'll look at some various bright lights and discuss hazards associated with each, including laser hazards and their classification.

Laser safety is a primary element of any optical training. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has published several standards for our industry. Each has a specific venue or industry it focuses on. The most common for laser users is the ANSI Z136.1 Standard for the safe use of lasers. The information in this unit is from the most recent publication of the standard.

Here you'll investigate the Safety Classes of lasers and control measures for each class. Hazard evaluation of a system is part of a technician's responsibility. This unit covers NHZ, MPE, OD, and eyewear conditions.