

ASC Z136 Safe Use of Lasers

Accredited Standards Committee



Date: 26 February 2010
Memo to: M. Grecko
From: William Ertle, Chairman TSC-4 (Control Measures)
R. Timothy Hitchcock, Vice Chair TSC-4
Darrell Seeley, Secretary TSC-4
Subject: Explanation: Section 4.3.10.2.1, Emergency Conditions/Emergency stops

Question:

Section 4.3.10.2.1 of Z136.1 (2007) says that an emergency stop must be available. Can this e-stop be integrated into the housing of the laser (or device containing the laser source) or laser controller? Or does it have to be completely separated from the laser (i.e. mounted on a wall or podium)?

Response:

No specific guidance or requirement is listed in the standard intentionally. This user standard is not intended to create manufacturing requirements nor does it define “available”. That is up to the user to determine what works best for them.

Additionally we note that an e-stop is often integrated into the power supply of Class 4 lasers. However, the power supply may be located out of the way and, therefore, be relatively inaccessible. Box- or pedestal-controllers may have an e-stop switch, and these may satisfy the requirement, because the switch is easily accessible. Often, however, the switch is wired into the facility, especially where there are multiple lasers in use.



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