Licensing - Use of Laser Apparatus for Operational Checks

The Radiation Safety Act 1999 requires all persons who use radiation apparatus to hold an appropriate licence issued by the Chief Executive, Queensland Health. These use licences may only be issued to persons who have appropriate skills and knowledge of the principles and practices of radiation protection, as well as expertise in the use of the radiation apparatus. Under the Act, laser apparatus is considered to be radiation apparatus.

This information sheet outlines the licensing requirements for persons who wish to use laser apparatus for operational checks.

What is a laser apparatus?

A laser apparatus is:

(a) a laser that could reasonably be used to carry out a diagnostic, therapeutic or cosmetic procedure involving the irradiation of a person

(b) an apparatus that, if assembled or repaired, and when energised, is capable of emitting an amount of non-ionising radiation higher than the accessible emission limit for a class 3B laser for the relevant period, stated in, and measured in accordance with, the laser standard AS2211 (ie. a class 4 laser).

When is a licence required?

All persons who use laser apparatus must hold an appropriate use licence issued under the Radiation Safety Act 1999.

Knowledge and practical competencies

Persons seeking a licence to use laser apparatus for operational checks will need to demonstrate that they have appropriate knowledge in laser safety and are competent in preparing laser apparatus for use in surgical procedures, before they are considered eligible to obtain a licence.

Eligibility for a licence

Applicants will be considered eligible for a licence to use laser apparatus for operational checks if, in addition to completing the application form and providing the appropriate licence fee, they meet the requirements of one of the following alternatives:

Alternative one

Applicants must:

- provide evidence that they are currently registered as a registered nurse with the Queensland Nursing Council
- provide evidence that they have satisfactorily completed a laser safety course, specifically approved by the Director, Radiation Health for the training of persons seeking a licence to use laser apparatus for operational checks, within three years of the application being submitted.
Alternative two

Applicants must:

- provide evidence that they have satisfactorily completed a laser safety course, specifically approved by the Director, Radiation Health for the training of persons seeking a licence to use laser apparatus for operational checks, within three years of the application being submitted.
- provide evidence that they are required, by a possession licensee, to use a laser for operational checks.

Applicants who obtain a licence via this alternative will have a condition attached to their licence stating that they may only use laser apparatus for operational checks for the stated possession licensee.

Approved laser safety courses

A list of approved laser safety courses suitable for persons seeking to obtain a licence for operational checks is available on request from Radiation Health.

Persons who have completed a course which has not been approved should submit full details of the course for consideration by Radiation Health.

Procedure for application

An application for a licence to use laser apparatus must be made to the Chief Executive, Queensland Health through the licensing officer, Radiation Health. Application forms are available from Radiation Health by phoning (07) 3406 8000. Licences granted remain current for the term specified on the licence and are subject to any conditions in the legislation and any additional conditions attached to the licence. Applications for renewal of licences must be made prior to the expiry of the current licence.

Enquiries

For further information, please contact an officer at Radiation Health on (07) 3406 8000 or, alternatively, via email at radiation_health@health.qld.gov.au.