



## Guideline: Ophthalmology – use of lasers

### Overview

- Lasers are used by Ophthalmologists to perform certain clinical procedures.
  - Class 3B lasers are commonly used for repairing scarring of the capsule after an intraocular lens insertion.
  - Class 4 lasers are commonly used for photocoagulation of diabetic retinopathy.
- The Radiation Health Unit is the Queensland Government's radiation safety agency and administers Queensland's *Radiation Safety Act 1999* and the *Radiation Safety Regulation 2010*, which regulates some sources of ionising and non-ionising radiation.<sup>1</sup>
- Practitioners using Class 4 lasers are required to hold a Queensland Use Licence.<sup>2</sup>
- There are specific facility safety requirements where Class 4 lasers are used, which are the responsibility of the relevant Hospital and Health Service.<sup>3</sup>
- The use of Class 4 lasers must be clearly stated in the practitioner's scope of clinical practice (SoCP).

### Key requirements for SoCP

- A practitioner wishing to use and apply for SoCP in the use of Class 4 lasers must hold a current Queensland Use Licence.
- A copy of the practitioner's current Use Licence must be included in the application for SoCP.
- The SoCP practice letter will include the phrase 'Use of Class 4 laser'
- A Use Licensee may have a term of one, two or three years. A copy of the practitioner's current Use Licence must be kept on file.

### Further Information

- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists, *Laser Safety Protocol*.  
<https://ranzco.edu/about-ranzco/our-organisation/policies>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/radiationhealth>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/radiationhealth/healthrelated/laser-therapeutic>

<sup>3</sup> Radiation Safety Standard PR008:2010: *Standard for premises at which Class 4 lasers are used to carry out cosmetic or health related procedures*. <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/radiationhealth/legislation/standards>