

LASER SYSTEM SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. General. Laser System Safety Officers (LSSOs) shall have satisfactorily completed a Navy LSSO course. Commands should contact the Administrative Lead Agent (ALA)/Lead Navy Technical Laboratory (LNTL) for the approved formal laser safety course that applies to their situation.

2. Laser System Safety Officers (LSSOs). There are four categories of LSSOs: ALSO, TLSO, LSS, and RLSS (see definitions below). Retesting at the LSSO's highest certification level is required to maintain certification for all categories of LSSO every 4 years. Recertification exams shall include prerequisite level information. If the LSSO fails the recertification examination, the LSSO will have to be re-certified by attending the appropriate course. Personnel should contact either the ALA or LNTL for recertification testing information. Commanding officers should determine which category of LSSO is appropriate for their commands considering their mission, types of lasers being used, and size of the laser safety program. LSSO categories and qualification descriptions are as follows:

a. Administrative Laser Safety Officer (ALSO) - The ALSO must successfully complete an ALA/LNTL-approved ALSO course. An ALSO is qualified to:

(1) Establish and manage a unit level laser safety program.

(2) Approve, disapprove, or submit for safety approval to higher authority all local laser uses, both portable and fixed.

(3) Instruct employees and supervisors on the safe use of lasers.

(4) Supervise laser operations and maintenance.

(5) Manage laser incident investigations as appropriate. Technical assistance of an LSS or an RLSS is required.

(6) Maintain a laser medical surveillance program.

(7) Maintain an inventory of military exempt and class 3B and class 4 lasers.

(8) Post laser warning signs and devices.

(9) Ensure that laser operators have the appropriate knowledge to safely operate their specific lasers (supervisor safety briefs, factory training school, instructional materials, etc.).

(10) Provide safety briefs/pre-mission briefs to laser range users.

(11) Prior to use of a laser range, ensure/confirm that warning signs have been posted, the area is clear of specular reflectors, personnel have required Laser Eye Protection (LEP), and all other safety conditions for range laser use outlined in the range regulations or range standard operating procedures (SOPs) are met.

(12) Perform LEP inspections.

b. Technical Laser Safety Officer (TLSO) - A TLSO must successfully complete an ALA/LNTL-approved TLSO course. A TLSO is qualified to:

(1) Understand the calculations and measurements of laser safety parameters such as Nominal Ocular Hazard Distances (NOHDs) and required Optical Densities (ODs) for laser eyewear.

(2) Train ALSOs using the ALA-approved course curriculum (qualification of TLSOs as instructors requires ALA/LNTL approval).

(3) Understand classification of lasers and laser systems.

(4) Perform the duties of a laboratory, installation, base, research facility, or Range Laser Safety Officer (RLSO) as follows:

(a) Establish and manage a base or installation laser range safety program.

(b) Approve/disapprove the use of laser systems and/or any laser operations on their range that fall within the guidelines of the range certification.

(c) Perform annual range safety compliance inspections to include:

1. Verification of range boundary warning signs;
2. Target conditions;
3. Accessibility and condition of ground laser system firing points; and
4. Other laser safety controls, as appropriate.

(d) Ensure laser ranges under their cognizance are certified/recertified by an RLSS at least every 3 years or when changes to the range fall outside the current certification.

(e) Ensure range regulations/SOPs are provided to commands requesting usage of the laser range.

(f) Review the training plan (to include laser type(s) and proposed employment tactics) of each command requesting access to the laser range to ensure compliance with current laser range certification.

(5) Perform the same duties as an ALSO.

c. Laser Safety Specialist (LSS). The LSS must successfully complete the ALA/LNTL-approved LSS course. An LSS is qualified to:

(1) Perform the calculations and measurements of laser safety parameters such as NOHDs and required ODs for laser eyewear.

(2) Train ALSOs, TLSOs, RLSOs, and LSSs using the ALA-approved course curriculum. (Qualification of instructors requires ALA/LNTL approval.)

(3) Classify lasers and laser systems.

(4) Conduct technical aspects of laser incident investigations.

(5) Perform the same tasks as a TLSO.

d. Range Laser Safety Specialist (RLSS). An RLSS must successfully complete an ALA/LNTL-approved RLSS course. An RLSS is qualified to:

(1) Conduct laser radiation hazard surveys and evaluations for commanding officer approval of certification.

(2) Perform the calculations and measurements required to certify a laser range.

(3) Train ALSOs and RLSSs using the ALA-approved course curriculum. Qualification of instructors requires ALA/LNTL approval.

(4) Conduct technical aspects of laser range incident investigations.

(5) Perform the same tasks as a TLSO.