

**University of Delaware**  
**Environmental Health and Safety Protocol**

**Section:** General Health and Safety

**Protocol Name:** Use of Lasers in Non-Laboratory Environments

**Origination Date:** June 11, 2004

**Revisions:** January 2006, February 2014, April 2015, November 2015

**Protocol Number:** G-04

**I. SCOPE OF PROTOCOL**

This protocol applies to the operation of lasers in non-laboratory environments by University personnel, employees, students, visitors, and non-University personnel on University property or during University-sponsored activities.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

A. Laser toy product

1. Product primarily used as a toy that is manufactured, designed, intended, or prompted for novelty or visual entertainment use.

**III. PROTOCOL STATEMENT**

A. All laser activities shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes the potential for injury to persons and damage to equipment and facilities.

**IV. PROTOCOL STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES**

- A. The pointing of laser beams at aircraft in flight is illegal and prohibited. This includes beams from personal lasers. Also prohibited is shining a laser beam on any person, e.g. athletes at a sporting event, performers on stage, lecture speakers, etc.
- B. Laser toy products may not be sold on University property.
- C. Laser cutters and engravers can cause fires if used improperly and must be properly vented. They are used in both laboratory and non-laboratory environments. The owner of a cutter/engraver must first contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety to schedule a comprehensive safety review before using such a device on campus.
- D. There shall be no audience laser scanning during laser light shows sponsored by the University without prior written approval from the Department of Environmental Health and Safety.

For more information regarding this policy, contact the Department of Environmental Health and Safety 302-831-8475.