

LASER SAFETY CHECKLIST

Are you compliant with new ANSI standards?



Updates to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z136.3 Standard for “Safe Use of Lasers in Health Care” include significant new requirements regarding the individuals operating medical lasers, the training of those individuals, and the holistic oversight of medical laser safety. Agencies including OSHA and The Joint Commission will soon begin enforcing the elevated ANSI laser safety standards, putting facilities at risk for penalties and brand damage for non-compliance. Moreover, a non-compliant medical laser safety program presents substantial risks to both patient and staff safety – with costs and impacts that ripple well beyond an isolated incident.

10 Questions To Determine If Your OR Is Covered

- Do you have a designated medical laser safety officer (MLSO)?
- Do you have a dedicated laser operator(s) without competing responsibilities for each surgical case?
- Do you have a laser safety committee that reviews program performance quarterly?
- Does your MLSO maintain all required records and documentation by applicable government regulations?
- If you use a third-party laser service provider, do they provide performance metrics for quarterly review by your laser safety committee?
- Is local exhaust ventilation (LEV) used during laser procedures? Do all laser operators know how to assemble, check, and operate a plume evacuator system?
- Do all laser operators know how to safely test fire for laser output and troubleshoot beam problems?
- Do all laser operators have documented certification on the model of laser and the procedure?
- Do all laser operators demonstrate the ability to monitor and maintain a laser-safe environment?
- Do your laser operators clearly understand what a reportable incident is?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, or you are uncertain, there might be critical gaps in your medical laser safety program. To explore your options with a laser safety expert, contact us today at agilithhealth.com/MLSO or call us at 800.847.7368.

