



LASER POINTER SAFETY

While the majority of laser pointers contain low to moderately powered diode lasers, more powerful lasers are now being imported from China and other countries. These pointers present a significant potential for eye injury and often do not conform to Australian Standards.

The hazards of laser pointers are limited to the eye, the largest concern being potential damage to the retina. For most laser pointers, the likely effects from exposure to viewing the direct beam are afterimage, flash blindness and glare.

To reduce potential hazards:

- Never look directly into the laser beam;
- Never point a laser beam at a person;
- Do not aim the laser at reflective surfaces;
- Never view a laser pointer using an optical instrument, such as binoculars or a microscope;
- Do not allow children to use laser pointers unless under supervision of an adult;
- Only use laser pointers which meet the Australian Standard (AS/NZS 2211) Classification Class 2 and labelled 'Caution: Laser Radiation' . If in doubt, contact Mr Geoff White from the Radiation Safety Committee (693 32175), who will test your laser pointer to confirm its compliance.

Further Information relating to the Charles Sturt University's
Laser Safety Policy can be located at the Radiation Safety Committee
Website: http://www.csu.edu.au/acad_sec/committees/radiation/index.html