

| Laser Class | Class Description |
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| Class 1 | Considered to be incapable of producing damaging radiation levels during operation. Exempt from any control measures or other forms of surveillance. |
| Class 1M | Considered to be incapable of producing hazardous exposure conditions during normal operation unless the beam is viewed with an optical instrument such as an eye-loupe or a telescope. Exempt from any control measures other than to prevent potentially hazardous optically aided viewing; and is exempt from other forms of surveillance. |
| Class 2 | Emits in the visible portion of the spectrum (0.4 to 0.7 μm). Eye protection is normally afforded by the aversion response. |
| Class 2M | Emits in the visible portion of the spectrum (0.4 to 0.7 μm). Eye protection is normally afforded by the aversion response for unaided viewing. However, Class 2M is potentially hazardous if viewed with certain optical aids. |
| Class 3R | A Class 3R laser system is potentially hazardous under some direct and specular reflection viewing conditions if the eye is appropriately focused and stable, but the probability of an actual injury is small. This laser will not pose either a fire hazard or diffuse-reflection hazard. Considered a medium-power system. |
| Class 3B | A Class 3B laser system may be hazardous under direct and specular reflection viewing conditions, but is normally not a diffuse reflection or fire hazard. Considered a medium-power system. |
| Class 4 | Is a hazard to the eye or skin from the direct beam. May pose a diffuse reflection or fire hazard. May also produce laser generated air contaminants (LGAC) and hazardous plasma radiation. Considered a high-power system. |