

**OPERATION OF LASERS  
WITHIN  
SCOTTISH EXHIBITION + CONFERENCE CENTRE**

When an employer uses display laser equipment as part of an exhibition or concert at the SECC he has duties under the following legislation, viz.,

*The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974*  
*The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1992*  
*The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992*

He must assess the health and safety risks caused by the laser display including the risks to employees and members of the public. Having done so, he must introduce measures to control these risks so far as is reasonably practicable. The work equipment which is provided must be suitable for the purpose without posing a threat to the health and safety of others.

Exhibition organisers and concert promoters whose event includes the use of lasers for display purposes should advise the event planner at the earliest stage possible in order that an Installation Safety Assessment can be completed by the User and/or Installer. This Assessment should be recorded and a copy given to the Health & Safety Manager at the venue.

The operation of display laser installations at the SECC requires to be supervised by authorised trained operators. Operators should be in a position to act quickly if there is equipment failure, audience problems or other unsafe conditions in order that the display can be stopped.

In addition the Organiser or Promoter should appoint a Laser Safety Officer (LSO) who is experienced in the evaluation and control of laser hazards and capable of implementing the safety precautions specified by the supplier. The LSO should have full responsibility for the management, operation and maintenance of the display installation.

If the laser display has a classification of 3A, 3B or 4, the Health & Safety Manager informs the Promoter that a demonstration will be required prior to the exhibition or concert opening. The laser display company will have the Laser Safety Officer present throughout the open period of the event and he will arrange the demonstration. If the laser classification is 1 or 2, a demonstration is only arranged if the Local Authority requests it.

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**Operation of Lasers within Scottish Exhibition + Conference Centre cont.**

The Health & Safety Manager advises the Environmental Health Officer by letter that laser displays will take place and copies of all paperwork in connection with this are forwarded to him. The local Fire Prevention Officer is advised of the circumstance by telephone if a Class 4 laser is involved and invited to attend the demonstration.

The Environmental Health Officer will normally attend a demonstration if it occurs during working hours but the Fire Prevention Officer has delegated his responsibility to the Health & Safety Manager at the venue unless special circumstances exist where special Fire Service expertise is required.

During the open period of an exhibition or concert, SECC maintenance staff monitor the water supply to ensure that remedial action can be taken to redress any drop in the pressure which would subsequently affect the cooling pattern of the laser.

Two of the most important variables in relation to the use of laser displays are the condition/quality of the equipment being used and the expertise plus safety consciousness of the operator/laser safety officer. The venue, unfortunately, has a limited and very often last minute control over both factors.

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