

HEALTH AND SAFETY DEPARTMENT

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Heads of Departments & Centres
Departmental Safety Officers

From: Steph Slater – Radiation Protection Officer

Date: 26 June 2007

Subject: Use of Laser Pointers

Concerns have been raised with the Health and Safety Department regarding the risk from laser pointers being brought onto University premises. Laser pointers are now relatively cheap and readily available and those brought from overseas may not meet European Standards and have the potential to cause serious eye injury.

The University Health, Safety and Welfare Committee have approved the following policy statement for use of laser pointers at the University of York:

Only laser pointers with a power output less than 1mW – i.e. Class 1 and 2 lasers, are permitted for use on University premises.

All laser pointers should be CE marked.



In addition Class 2 laser products should be labelled with the laser warning sign and explanatory label “Class 2 laser- Do not stare into the beam.”



If product mislabelling is suspected, or there is doubt over the classification of the product, the laser pointer must not be used.

Please ensure that your staff, students, visiting lecturers/speakers, and conference organisers are aware of this policy.