

PRECAUZIONI PUNTATORI LASER

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PRECAUZIONI PER IL BUON FUNZIONAMENTO DEI PUNTATORI LASER

Leggere attentamente le seguenti note prima dell'installazione:

1. Alimentare i puntatori laser con alimentatori a trasformatore che diano tensioni STABILIZZATE: per alimentatore stabilizzato si intende un alimentatore provvisto al suo interno di regolatore e stabilizzatore di tensione (es. 7805, 7824 ecc.) e opportuni filtri che eliminano tutte le variazioni, disturbi e transienti che potrebbero provenire dalla linea di alimentazione. Nel caso di puntatori con alimentazione a +5 Vdc prevedere un alimentatore SEPARATO dal resto del cablaggio della macchina.
2. Si possono usare anche alimentatori SWITCHING, purché diano in uscita tensioni stabilizzate e soprattutto PRIVE di picchi di tensione e di disturbi in radiofrequenza tali da danneggiare nel tempo il puntatore.
3. Scegliere alimentatori switching di elevata qualità.
4. ELIMINARE TUTTE LE CARICHE ELETTROSTATICHE che si possono generare sulla macchina. Nei casi in cui il puntatore lavori vicino a materiali come stoffa, carta, poliestere e simili, applicare le opportune barre antistatiche, o altre soluzioni, atte ad eliminare QUALSIASI CARICA ELETTROSTATICA CHE SI PUO' GENERARE e che può nel tempo danneggiare il puntatore.
5. ELIMINARE con filtri eventuali disturbi che i motori in corrente alternata possono generare sia all'avviamento che durante il loro funzionamento.
6. Per i puntatori con custodia in metallo, nel caso di presenza di cariche elettrostatiche COLLEGARE la custodia del puntatore alla massa della macchina per permettere alle cariche elettrostatiche di essere scaricate a terra.
7. Considerare la CLASSE DI SICUREZZA del puntatore laser per prendere le dovute precauzioni.

ISTRUZIONI GENERALI DI SICUREZZA

1. Queste istruzioni devono essere lette e tenute con il laser.
2. Per evitare danni a terzi, l'area di lavoro deve essere contrassegnata.
3. Poiché gli specchi possono riflettere raggi pericolosi, non devono essere posti nel campo di lavoro.
4. In caso di malfunzionamenti spegnere l'apparecchio immediatamente!
5. Per evitare disturbi, i laser devono operare solo secondo la tensione indicata sul foglio tecnico.
6. Le alte temperature riducono la vita del puntatore laser.
7. Rispettare le classi di protezione indicate in tabella.

CLASSI DI SICUREZZA

Gli apparecchi laser sono classificati secondo diverse classi di sicurezza in base al rischio di lesioni agli occhi e alla pelle per l'operatore, nonché alla potenza e alla lunghezza d'onda del laser.

Sono esclusi pericoli elettrici, meccanici, chimici o rischi di radiazioni ottiche secondarie.

L'aumento del rischio di lesioni si ha all'aumentare della classe di sicurezza.

Dettaglio Classi disponibile in inglese a pag. 45.

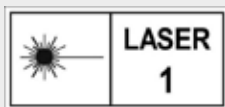
OBBLIGHI DEL PRODUTTORE

Il produttore deve collaudare attentamente ed etichettare il puntatore laser in base alle indicazioni della norma.

L'etichettatura comprende come minimo:

- un segnale di pericolo (non prescritto per la Classe 1)
- l'indicazione della classe, con dicitura di avvertimento (a partire dalla Classe 1M)
- la targhetta di identificazione

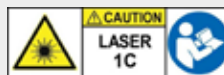
CLASS 1 LASER PRODUCT
oppure in alternativa la seguente etichetta:



LASER RADIATION
DO NOT EXPOSE USERS OF TELESCOPIC OPTICS
CLASS 1M LASER PRODUCT
oppure in alternativa la seguente etichetta:



LASER RADIATION
FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS
CLASS 1C LASER PRODUCT
oppure in alternativa la seguente etichetta:



LASER RADIATION
DO NOT STARE INTO BEAM
CLASS 2 LASER PRODUCT
oppure in alternativa la seguente etichetta:



LASER RADIATION
DO NOT STARE INTO BEAM OR EXPOSE
USERS OF TELESCOPIC OPTICS
CLASS 2M LASER PRODUCT
oppure in alternativa la seguente etichetta:



LASER RADIATION
AVOID DIRECT EYE EXPOSURE
CLASS 3R LASER PRODUCT
oppure in alternativa la seguente etichetta:



WARNING — LASER RADIATION
AVOID EXPOSURE TO BEAM
CLASS 3B LASER PRODUCT
oppure in alternativa la seguente etichetta:



DANGER — LASER RADIATION
AVOID EYE OR SKIN EXPOSURE
TO DIRECT OR SCATTERED
RADIATION
CLASS 4 LASER PRODUCT



OBBLIGHI DELL'UTILIZZATORE

1. Prima di mettere in servizio l'apparecchio l'utilizzatore deve leggere attentamente il manuale d'uso e osservare le prescrizioni di sicurezza stabilite da chi ha messo in commercio il prodotto. Per i laser di Classe 1 la sicurezza deve essere garantita da chi mette in commercio il prodotto, mentre per i laser di Classe 3R, 3B e 4 è l'utilizzatore che deve occuparsi della loro sicurezza dotando, eventualmente, il laser di un involucro di protezione in modo che l'apparecchio soddisfi le condizioni della Classe 1. Se questo non è possibile a causa del processo di lavorazione, il laser deve essere impiegato in un'area sorvegliata con accesso controllato. Una valutazione dei rischi permette di chiarire in quali casi possono sussistere dei pericoli e quali dispositivi di protezione devono usare le persone presenti per non subire danni. *Nota: le disposizioni generali in materia di sicurezza obbligano l'utilizzatore di un'apparecchiatura laser e il datore di lavoro ad adottare tutte le misure necessarie per garantire la sicurezza e la tutela della salute sul posto di lavoro, a documentare tali misure e a verificarne periodicamente il rispetto. La norma sui laser descrive gli obiettivi da perseguire per garantire la sicurezza degli utenti. Le basi giuridiche sono fornite dalla Legge Federale sull'Assicurazione contro gli Infortuni (LAINF) e dall'Ordinanza sulla Prevenzione degli Infortuni e delle malattie professionali (OPI). Un'altra condizione è il rispetto dei valori limite di esposizione sul posto di lavoro.*

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- Vista la gamma variabile di rischio che è associato alla Classe 3R, l'applicabilità di controlli specifici da parte dell'utente (inclusi i controlli amministrativi e la protezione degli occhi del personale) dovrebbero essere chiaramente descritte nelle istruzioni per l'uso.
- Per ogni tipo di puntatore acquistato esaminare le due tabelle seguenti.

PANNELLI DI ACCESSO E INTERRUTTORI DI SICUREZZA

Se si verificano contemporaneamente le seguenti due condizioni occorre montare un interruttore di sicurezza all'accesso dei pannelli delle custodie di protezione:

- quando si intende rimuovere o spostare il pannello di accesso durante le operazioni di manutenzione
- lo spostamento o la rimozione del pannello permette l'accesso a livelli di radiazioni laser indicate con la X nella tabella seguente

Classe puntatore	Livelli di radiazione che potrebbero essere accessibili durante o dopo la rimozione dei pannelli di accesso, se non presenti interruttori di blocco				
	1, 1M	2, 2M	3R	3B	4
1, 1M, 1C	-	-	X	X	X
2, 2M	-	-	X	X	X
3R	-	-	-	X	X
3B	-	-	-	X	X
4	-	-	-	X	X

SOMMARIO CLASSI DI SICUREZZA

Richieste	Classe 1	Classe 1M	Classe 2	Classe 2M	Classe 3R	Classe 3B	Classe 4
Descrizione della classe di pericolo (pag. 45)	Sicurezza in condizioni ragionevolmente prevedibili	Come Classe 1 ma possono essere pericolose se l'utilizzatore impiega delle ottiche	Bassa potenza: la protezione dell'occhio è normalmente assicurata dalle reazioni di difesa compreso il riflesso palpebrale	Come Classe 2 ma possono essere pericolose se l'utilizzatore impiega delle ottiche	La visualizzazione diretta del fascio può essere pericolosa	La visualizzazione diretta del fascio è normalmente pericolosa	Alta potenza: le riflessioni diffuse pericolose, lesioni alla pelle e pericolo di incendio. E' richiesta estrema cautela
Custodie di protezione	-	Richiesto per ogni prodotto laser, limita l'accesso necessario per il funzionamento dei prodotti					
Interruttore di sicurezza e custodia di protezione	Progettato per impedire la rimozione del pannello fino a quando i valori di emissione accessibile sono al di sotto della Classe 3R				Progettato in alcuni prodotti per impedire la rimozione del pannello fino a che i valori di emissione accessibili sono inferiori alla Classe 3B o 3R		
Interruttore di blocco a remoto	Non richiesto					Permette facilmente l'aggiunta di un blocco esterno durante l'installazione del laser. Non è richiesto per alcuni prodotti in classe 3B	
Reset manuale	Non richiesto					Richiesto se la potenza è stata interrotta o se l'interblocco remoto si è attivato	
Chiave di Controllo	Non richiesto					Laser non operativo quando la chiave è tolta	
Dispositivo di emissioni di allarme	Non richiesto				Allarme visibile o udibile quando il laser è acceso o se sono in carica i condensatori del laser pulsato. Per la classe 3R, si applica solo se viene emessa la radiazione invisibile		
Attenuatore	Non richiesta					Fornisce il blocco temporaneo del fascio	
Controlli sul posto	Non richiesta				Controlli localizzati in modo che non ci sia pericolo di esposizione alle AEL sopra Classi 1 o 2, quando vengono apportate modifiche		
Ottiche di visualizzazione	Non richiesta		L'emissione da tutti i sistemi di visione dovrebbe essere inferiore alla classe 1M AEL				
Test	Il fallimento dei test non permette al prodotto di superare la sua classificazione						

DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSES

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C.1 - General

This annex contains a description of the classes as well as potentially associated hazards.

The annex is intended as a guide for the manufacturers in their task of describing the hazards associated with the product. This annex also points out limitations of the classification scheme, i.e. situations where the generally associated meaning of the class is not appropriate.

Classification was developed to aid the user in hazard evaluation of the laser and to determine necessary user control measures. Laser classification relates to the potential hazard of the accessible laser radiation in respect to skin or eye damage and does not relate to other potential hazards such as electrical, mechanical or chemical hazards, or hazards from secondary optical radiation. The intent of classification is to recognize the increased risk of injury with increasing powers accessible above the base-line, Class 1 condition and most accurately describes the risk from potential exposures at short distances from the laser. The hazard zone can differ greatly for different lasers within one class. The potential hazard could be greatly reduced by additional user protective measures, including additional engineering controls such as protective housings.

C.2 - Description of classes

C.2.1 - Class 1

Laser products that are safe during use, including long-term direct intra-beam viewing, even when exposure occurs while using telescopic optics. Class 1 also includes high power lasers that are fully enclosed so that no potentially hazardous radiation is accessible during use (embedded laser product). Intra-beam viewing of Class 1 laser products which emit visible radiant energy may still produce dazzling visual effects, particularly in low ambient light. The term "eye-safe" may only be used for Class 1 laser products. The term "eye-safe laser" should not be used to describe a laser, based solely on its output wavelength being greater than 1 400 nm. Lasers of any wavelength with sufficient output power can cause injury.

C.2.2 - Class 1M

Laser products that are safe, including long-term direct intra-beam viewing for the naked eye (unaided eye). The MPE can be exceeded and eye injury may occur following exposure with telescopic optics such as binoculars for a collimated beam with a diameter larger than the measurement diameter specified for Condition 3 (see Table 10).

The wavelength region for Class 1M lasers is restricted to the spectral region where most glass optical materials used in optical instruments can significantly transmit, i.e., between 302,5 nm and 4 000 nm. Intra-beam viewing of Class 1M laser products which emit visible radiant energy may still produce dazzling visual effects, particularly in low ambient light.

C.2.3 - Class 1C

Laser products that are intended for direct application of laser radiation to the skin or internal body tissues for medical, diagnostic, therapeutic or cosmetic procedures such as hair removal, skin wrinkle reduction, acne reduction. Although the emitted laser radiation may be at Class 3R, 3B or 4 levels, ocular exposures are prevented by one or more engineering means. The exposure level of the skin depends on the application, therefore this aspect is covered by vertical standards. This class was introduced in this standard because these products currently exist in the marketplace, and the control measures normally specified for Class 3B or 4 laser products are inappropriate for them. Technical committees who use Class 1 C must develop the required specifications for safety in their vertical standards.

C.2.4 - Class 2

Laser products that emit visible radiation in the wavelength range from 400 nm to 700 nm that are safe for momentary exposures but can be hazardous for deliberate staring into the beam. The time base of 0,25 s is inherent in the definition of the class and presumption is that there is very low risk of injury for momentary exposures that are somewhat longer.

The following factors contribute to precluding injury under reasonably foreseeable conditions:

- unintentional exposures would rarely reflect worst-case conditions, for example, of beam alignment with the pupil for a stabilised head, worst-case accommodation;
- the inherent safety margin in the MPE upon which the AEL is based;
- natural aversion behaviour for exposure to bright light.

For Class 2, in contrast to Class 2M, the use of optical instruments does not increase the risk of ocular injury.

However, dazzle, flash-blindness and after-images may be caused by a beam from a Class 2 laser product, particularly under low ambient light conditions. This may have indirect general safety implications resulting from temporary disturbance of vision or from startle reactions. Such visual disturbances could be of particular concern if experienced while performing safety-critical operations such as working with machines or at height, with high voltages or driving.

Users are instructed by labelling not to stare into the beam, i.e. to perform active protective reactions by moving the head or closing the eyes and to avoid continued intentional intra-beam viewing.

C.2.5 - Class 2M

Laser products that emit visible laser beams and are safe for short time exposure only for the naked (unaided) eye. The MPE can be exceeded and eye injury may occur following exposure with telescopic optics such as binoculars for a collimated beam with a diameter larger than the measurement diameter specified for Condition 3 (see Table 10).

However, dazzle, flash-blindness and after-images may be caused by a beam from a Class 2M laser product, particularly under low ambient light conditions. This may have indirect general safety implications resulting from temporary disturbance of vision or from startle reactions. Such visual disturbances could be of particular concern if experienced while performing safety-critical operations such as working with machines or at height, with high voltages or driving.

Users are instructed by labelling not to stare into the beam, i.e. to perform active protective reactions by moving the head or closing the eyes and to avoid continued intentional intra-beam viewing. Labelling of Class 2M products also instructs against exposing users of telescopic optical instruments.

C.2.6 - Class 3R

Laser products that emit radiation that can exceed the MPE under direct intra-beam viewing, but the risk of injury in most cases is relatively low. The AEL for Class 3R is limited to 5 times the AEL of Class 2 (visible laser radiation) or 5 times the AEL of Class 1 (for non-visible laser radiation). Because of the lower risk, fewer manufacturing requirements and control measures for the user (depending on national regulations) apply than for Class 3B. While Class 3R laser products are not considered intrinsically safe, the risk is limited because

- unintentional exposures would rarely reflect worst-case conditions of (e.g.) beam alignment with a large pupil and worst-case accommodation with the entire beam energy entering the eye,
- of the inherent reduction factor (safety margin) in the MPE,
- of natural aversion behaviour for exposure to bright light for the case of visible radiation and by the response to heating of the cornea for far infrared radiation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSES

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The risk of injury increases with exposure duration, and exposure may be hazardous for ocular exposure under worst-case conditions or for intentional direct intra-beam viewing.

Due to the varying range of the risk that is associated with Class 3R lasers, the applicability of specific user controls (including administrative controls and personal eye protection) should be clearly described in the user instructions.

NOTE: Compared to ocular MPE values as well as AEL values for Class 1, 1M, 2, 2M and 3R specified in the second edition of IEC 60825-1, the respective values in this third edition were decreased for some single-pulsed point sources, but increased for most repetitively pulsed sources, and also increased for most pulsed extended sources; reduction factors (safety margins) in these values were changed correspondingly. Consequently, some pulsed products that were classified as Class 3R under Edition 2 are Class 2 under Edition 3, and some pulsed products that were classified as Class 3B under Edition 2 are Class 3R under Edition 3. For the latter, there is less practical experience available regarding the risk for injury as it exists for CW sources with collimated beams with powers up to 5 mW being used for many years as alignment lasers.

Dazzle, flash-blindness and after-images may be caused by a beam from a Class 3R laser product in the visible wavelength range (as from a Class 2 laser), particularly under low ambient light conditions. This may have indirect general safety implications resulting from temporary disturbance of vision or from startle reactions. Such visual disturbances could be of particular concern if experienced while performing safety-critical operations such as working with machines or at height, with high voltages or driving.

Class 3R lasers should only be used where direct intra-beam viewing is unlikely.

C.2.7 - Class 3B

Laser products that are normally hazardous when intra-beam ocular exposure occurs (i.e. within the NOHD) including accidental short time exposure. Viewing diffuse reflections is normally safe. Class 3B lasers which approach the AEL for Class 3B may produce minor skin injuries or even pose a risk of igniting flammable materials. However, this is only likely if the beam has a small diameter or is focussed.

NOTE: There exist some theoretical (but rare) viewing conditions where viewing a diffuse reflection could exceed the MPE. For example for Class 3B lasers having powers approaching the AEL, lengthy viewing of greater than 10 s of true diffuse reflections of visible radiation and viewing at distances less than 13 cm between the diffusing surface and the cornea can exceed the MPE.

C.2.8 - Class 4

Laser products for which intra-beam viewing and skin exposure is hazardous and for which the viewing of diffuse reflections may be hazardous. These lasers also often represent a fire hazard.

C.2.9 - Note on nomenclature

"C" in Class 1C is derived from the mode of operation where laser radiation above the AEL of Class 1 can be emitted only when the applicator is in contact with (or very close to) the skin or internal body tissue.

"M" in Class 1M and Class 2M is derived from magnifying optical viewing instruments. "R" in Class 3R is derived from reduced, or relaxed, requirements: reduced requirements both for the manufacturer (e.g. no key switch, beam stop or attenuator and interlock connector required) and the user. The "B" for Class 3B has historical origins, as in a previous version of this standard (IEC 60825-1:1993), a Class 3A existed, which had a similar meaning to what is now Class 1M and Class 2M.

It should be noted that for the above descriptions, whenever "hazardous" is used or there is a reference to a high risk of injury, this hazard and risk only exists within the area around the laser where the corresponding MPE levels are exceeded. For exposure of the naked eye, this area is bounded by the NOHD, or for well collimated Class 1M and 2M viewed with binoculars or telescopes, the extended NOHD (ENOH). It may well be that a particular (Class 3B or Class 4) laser product has a very short NOHD associated with it, so that for a particular installation or application, for personnel outside the NOHD eye protection is not necessary. Examples of such installations are scanning lasers or line lasers mounted on the ceiling of the manufacturing hall that project a pattern or line onto the work-piece in the work area below. While the power level and scan pattern could be such that the exposure in the work area is below the MPE and therefore safe, maintenance and service routines will need special consideration. For example, exposure at closer distances might be hazardous, for instance, when the user is up on a ladder cleaning an exit window. Another example is that, whilst a scan pattern might be safe, a hazard may arise if the beam reverts to the non-scanning mode. In addition, for Class 4 laser products, there is a NOHD associated with diffuse reflections (although this NOHD is likely to be quite limited in extent). The characterisation of the hazard associated with a particular laser and application is part of a risk assessment.

Classification tests are designed to be rather "worst-case" and restrictive in order to ensure that a "low-class" (e.g. Class 1) product does not present a hazard to the eye or skin even in reasonably foreseeable worst-case situations; the test conditions are designed to consider a variety of worst-case situations (see Sliney et al.). Consequently, a Class 3B or Class 4 product can still be designed in such a way that it can be considered safe for its intended use and normal operation, since the hazard only becomes accessible in worst-case situations. For instance, the product could feature a protective housing (which complies with IEC 60825-4) but fails to be an embedded Class 1 laser product because of the following reasons:

- the protective housing fails the test according to this Part 1 for an extended period (whereas for machines according to IEC 60825-4 a shorter evaluation time may be used)
- it has no top cover but would be considered safe for an environment where no persons are present above the guard
- it does not feature an automatic detection of walk-in access. (However, in a controlled environment, this can be replaced by an organisational safety measure of individualised locks that prevent closure of the door when somebody is inside the protective housing - which does not affect the classification but represents a procedure which achieves the desired level of safety for the user)

In cases where the hazard associated with a Class 3B and Class 4 laser product is limited to within the housing, organisational safety measures may be sufficient. Similarly, for a laser system with no roof, or a situation where burn-through of the guard may occur after some longer lasting fault, organisational safety measures may be sufficient.

Other examples exist where the hazards associated with Class 3B and Class 4 lasers arise only in specific situations. For example, consider the situation in which the classification is based on an accessory such as a collimating lens applied to a highly divergent source for low level laser therapy. This product may be classified as Class 3B based on the accessory lens being screwed on, since this lens produces a potentially hazardous collimated beam. However use without the accessory being screwed on, which would result in a divergent beam, could be safe (i.e. any exposure to the eye would be below the MPE). Thus a hazard area would only exist around the laser once the accessory has been screwed on.