

Physics Department Minor Incidents Log

Incident No. 2004-03 Date of report: 8/19/04  
Reportable Not ORPS reportable (as per categorizer P. Bender) Date of Incident: 7/1/04  
Status ES&H Committee Final  
Groups Involved: ATF  
Lead Investigator: Vitaly Yakimenko

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**Description:**

On July 1, 2004, an ATF laser operator realized that the ATF laser interlock recertification had expired. The expiration date was June 8, 2004, which was 23 days past. Recertification of the ATF laser interlock system is required every 6 months. Upon consultation with the ATF ESH Officer and other ATF laser operators, both the ATF CO2 and YAG laser operations were stopped. The "Test Procedure for ATF Laser Interlock" was conducted immediately thereafter and successfully completed on July 2, 2004. No non-conformance problems with the system were found. The results were forwarded to the Physics ESH Coordinator.

**Root Cause:**

Personnel error – failure to follow established procedures.

**Contributing Causes:**

Until 2002, NSLS provided a software/email-based reminder service to ATF for such important periodic events as recertification of the laser interlock system. Upon transfer of ATF to the Physics Department, this service was lost. To our knowledge, Physics does not have a comparable service.

**Corrective Actions: (ATF Group)**

- 1) ATF YAG and CO2 laser operations were stopped after certification lapse was discovered;
- 2) The "Test Procedure for ATF Laser Interlock" was conducted immediately thereafter, with the successful test results forwarded to Physics ESH;
- 3) A software-based reminder system will be implemented by the ATF ESH Officer.

**Corrective Actions: (Physics Department)**

Group Safety Coordinators (GSCs) will be informed and there will be discussion of this incident at the next GSC meeting, Group Leaders will be briefed, and the Department will be informed of the incident at the next Department Meeting.

**Lessons Learned:**

Reliance upon personal memory and/or posted reminders for important recertification dates is inadequate. A secondary reminder system, such as a software-based program, is necessary to ensure that periodic recertification procedures are performed in a timely fashion.

The above incident has been investigated and requires no further action.

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S. Aronson, Department Chair Date

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S. M. Shapiro, ES&H Committee Chair Date