



Defence  
Safety Authority

# DSA 03.OME Part 5: Defence Code of Practice (DCOP) 501

Military Laser Safety Certification during Procurement  
Process



# Version Record

Version 1.1

Version Date: August 2024.

Version changes: see amendment table.

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# Preface

## Requests for Change

1. Proposed changes, recommendations, or amendments to DOSR Regulations and Guidance can be submitted to the DOSR Regulations and Publications Team:

Email Address: [dsa-dosr-prg@mod.gov.uk](mailto:dsa-dosr-prg@mod.gov.uk)

Postal Address: Juniper #5004, Level 1, Wing 4, Abbey Wood North, Bristol, BS34 8QW

2. Any post and grammar change proposals can be approved or rejected by the DOSR without involvement of the associated Working Group.

3. Technical change proposals should be submitted to the associated Working Group for review and approval or rejection.

4. When incorporating changes, care is to be taken to maintain coherence across regulations.

5. Changes effecting Risk to Life will be published immediately. Other changes will be incorporated as part of routine reviews.

## Review Process

6. The DOSR team will ensure OME Regulations remain fit for purpose by conducting regular reviews through the DOSR Governance Committees, consulting with MOD Stakeholders and other Defence Regulators as necessary on interfaces and where there may be overlaps of responsibility.

## Further Advice and Feedback

7. For further information about any aspect of this document, or questions not answered within the subsequent sections, or to provide feedback on the content, contact the DOSR Regulations and Publications Team.

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# Amendment Record

No	Section	Para	Amendment Summary	Agreed	Date
1.0	all	all	Document created.	Regs ATL	Jul 2021
1.1	all	all	Reformatted in line with DSA accessibility requirements.	Regs ATL	Aug 2024

# DSA 02.OME Regulation 501

## **Military Laser Safety Certification During Procurement Process**

1. All military laser systems and activities shall be certified to state clearly any constraints placed on the firing of the laser and highlight the known hazards arising from use of the laser system.

# DSA 03.OME DCOP 501

## **Objectives/Scope**

2. This DCOP has been created to give guidance on how to follow the regulations. This DCOP will cover the certification of military lasers. This will ensure that all hazards for the laser system are captured to protect service personnel and civilians from harmful levels of laser radiation. This ensures that lasers can be used safely whilst adhering to all legal requirements, both civilian and military.

3. Deviation from these safety requirements could have safety implications to personnel, platforms, and MoD assets.

## **Legislation**

4. There are several UK and European Union (EU) laws and regulations dealing with health, safety and environmental issues which have an impact on the management of laser safety.

- a. Control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work (CAOR) 2010
- b. Directive 2006/25/EC – Artificial Optical Radiation
- c. Laser Misuse (Vehicle) Act (2018)
- d. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

## **Responsibilities**

5. If the military laser was purchased through a DE&S Delivery Team, it is the responsibility of the DT to ensure that the correct certification is in place.

6. If the military laser was a local purchase, it is the responsibility of the equipment owner to ensure that the correct certification is in place.

7. If a laser is being brought on site by external contractors, it is the sites responsibility to engage with the contractor to ensure that the laser is being used safely in accordance with local policy.

## **Laser Certification**

8. All military lasers must be certified by a Military Laser Safety Advisor unless exemption criteria are met. Every military laser will have a Military Laser System Safety Certificate (MLSSAC) which will outline the hazards associated with the laser

beam. MLSSACs are stored on the [DOME system](#). DOME can be used to request a new certificate for a new system, or to re-issue a certificate that is now out of date. MLSSACs are valid for 3 years from their date of issue.

9. If you cannot find the certificate on DOME, the MLST can be contacted at [DESWpns-DOSG-MLST@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DESWpns-DOSG-MLST@mod.gov.uk) for assistance.

### **Laser Certification Exemption**

10. Non-Military lasers are exempt from the certification process (such as DVD players, Laser printers). Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) purchases are exempt from the certification process if the following criteria is met.

- a. Be Class 1 or Class 2 (Excluding class 1M and 2M) as per the current BS EN 60825-1
- b. Be labelled as per BS EN 60825-1
- c. Be CE marked.
- d. Must in no way have been modified after purchase.
- e. Must be legally available for purchase by the UK public.

11. All military lasers to be used in training and operations must be certified, even if they meet the exemption criteria. If you are unsure if your equipment requires certification, the MLST can be contacted for advice.

### **Change Management**

12. MLSSACs are valid for 3 years from the date of issue.

13. All certification must remain up to date. Responsibility for ensuring certification is up to date is identified within the responsibilities section.