

Laboratory Precautions and Regulations

1. No smoking nor eating in the laboratory.
2. Observe laboratory safety regulations; one should especially avoid viewing the laser beam or its specular reflections directly. Consequently, *be aware of other students when reflecting beams or positioning optical elements*. In addition, avoid wearing jewelry in the laboratory since they can inadvertently intercept and reflect a laser beam.
3. Be as *careful* as you can with optical components. They are delicate and expensive. Considerable care must be exercised when using these components; e.g. return components to storage rack when not in use, instead of laying them down on the table where they could be easily damaged.
4. Never touch an optical surface with fingers; most high quality optical components are coated to increase or decrease their surface reflections. Fingerprints are destructive because the natural moisture of the skin contains acids and oils that chemically react with the coatings. In most cases it is impossible to remove fingerprints, although some success in removing them might be achieved if the contaminated surface is cleaned immediately using high quality lens cleaning tissue soaked with acetone or alcohol.
5. Study experimental procedures and equipment manuals before beginning experiments. *Do not exceed* LIGHT INTENSITY ratings or VOLTAGE ratings.
6. Beware of high voltages used in some experiments.
7. Clean up experiments before departing; they should be returned to their original, organized state. Do not take equipment out of the laboratory without permission.