

Laser Safety

The output of the CO2 engraving laser is fully contained in a Class 1 enclosure during normal operation. The laser cabinet has a safety interlock switch that deactivates the laser if the door is opened during operation, and no special precautions are necessary to operate the high power laser safely. However, the output beam of the Alignment Laser (visible red diode laser) is accessible to the operator during normal operation, giving the total system an overall rating of Class 3R. While this device employs the same technology as a handheld laser pointer, it is potentially hazardous if its beam is directed into the eye.

GENERAL OPERATION PRECAUTIONS

The laser operator should observe the following:

- **NEVER** operate the machine with any of the panels removed. Be aware that removal of any portion of the cabinet will expose a Class 4 laser system and greatly increase the risk of injury and/or fire. *Personal injury and fire risks are especially pronounced if the machine is operated with the bottom panel removed.* Remember that the CO2 laser beam is invisible!
- **NEVER** engrave or cut any material containing PVC or vinyl. These materials (along with other chlorine/chloride containing materials) produce a corrosive vapor that is extremely harmful to humans and will destroy your machine. *Your warranty will be void if your machine is damaged by corrosion from engraving or cutting PVC or vinyl.*
- **NEVER** engrave or cut any unknown material. The vaporization/melting of many materials, including but not limited to PVC and polycarbonates, can give off hazardous fumes. Please refer to the MSDS sheet from the material manufacturer to determine the response of any work material to extreme heat (burning/fire hazard).
- **NEVER** operate your machine unattended. There is a significant risk of fire if the machine is set improperly, or if the machine should experience a mechanical or electrical failure while operating.
- **ALWAYS** use the air assist, especially while vector cutting. Vector cutting movements are relatively slow and apply an extremely large amount of heat to the work piece. This buildup of heat can cause a significant fire risk.
- **DO NOT** disassemble the machine or remove any of its protective covers while the unit is plugged in.
- **DO NOT** defeat the door interlock.
- **DO NOT** look into the beam of the Alignment Laser (visible red diode laser)

- **DO NOT** operate the Alignment Laser without the focus lens in place. The unfocused beam can be reflected out of the chassis.
- **NEVER** operate the machine without a properly operating ventilation system. Most materials produce an irritating smoke when engraved. Some materials, including but not limited to paint, varnish, composition board and plastics, produce compounds that can be harmful if concentrated.

**CAUTION**

Use of controls or adjustments or performance of procedures other than those specified herein may result in hazardous radiation exposure.

The standard reference for laser safety is the American Standard for the Safe Use of Lasers, Z136.1-2000, developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This reference is the basis for many of the federal regulations for laser and laser system manufacturers, and for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) laser safety guidelines. It contains detailed information concerning proper installation and use of laser systems. While the ANSI standard itself does not have the force of law, its recommendations, including warning signage, training, and the designation of a laser safety officer, may be compulsory under local workplace regulations when operating laser systems above Class I. It is the operator's responsibility to ensure that the installation and operation of the Full Spectrum Laser Hobby Advanced Laser System is performed in accordance with all applicable laws. Copies of ANSI Standard Z136.1-2000 are available from:

LASER INSTITUTE OF AMERICA
12424 RESEARCH PARKWAY, SUITE 125
ORLANDO, FL 32826
(407) 380-1553

Fire Safety



Laser cutting and engraving systems represent a significant fire hazard due to the extremely high temperatures generated by the laser beam. While the objective of most cutting and engraving operations is to vaporize material without burning, most materials capable of being cut or engraved are inherently combustible and can easily ignite. Usually this is a small flame of burning material issuing from the cut zone which self extinguishes due to the air assist or de-powering of the beam. However, it is possible for the flame to propagate and set fire to the machine and threaten its surroundings.

Experience shows that vector cutting with the laser has the most potential to create an open flame. Acrylic in all its different forms has been shown to be especially flammable when vector cutting with the laser. Please also be aware that stacking materials (especially organic materials such as paper) can lead to increased risk of flame propagation or work piece ignition.

Please read the following warnings and recommendations and follow them closely at all times!



- **NEVER** leave the laser system unattended during operation.
- **KEEP** the area around the machine clean and free of clutter, combustible materials, explosives, or volatile solvents such as acetone, alcohol, or gasoline.
- **ALWAYS** keep a properly maintained and inspected 5lb or larger fire extinguisher on hand. Full Spectrum recommends a Halogen fire extinguisher or a multi-purpose dry chemical fire extinguisher. Halogen extinguishers are more expensive than a dry chemical, but offer certain advantages should you ever need to use an extinguisher. The Halogen extinguisher discharges a clean, easily removable substance that is not harmful to the mechanics or wiring of the laser system. The dry chemical extinguisher discharges a sticky, corrosive powder that is very difficult to clean up.
- **ALWAYS** use air assist when vector cutting.
- **BE CAREFUL** when vector cutting. Many materials have the potential to burst suddenly into flames – even materials that may be very familiar to the user. Always monitor the machine when it is operating.
- **KEEP YOUR LASER SYSTEM CLEAN** – A build up of cutting and engraving residue and debris is dangerous and can create a fire hazard. Keep your laser system clean and free of debris. Regularly remove the cutting grid to clean any small pieces that have gotten stuck or fallen through.