

## TAKE CONTROL

# Exposure to Non-Ionising Radiation

This information bulletin has been produced to assist in the prevention of workplace injury and disease. By identifying causes and assessing and controlling risks you can take control of health and safety in your workplace.

## Risk indicators in the workplace

Some things to look for include:

- Sources of non-ionising radiation, such as lasers, which are not labelled when in use;
- Equipment, such as microwave and radio frequency generators, which can be inadvertently switched on whilst people are working unshielded nearby;
- Non-ionising radiation being generated in the work area and employees are not aware of it;
- Missing or damaged barriers around sources of non-ionising radiation;
- Unsafe work practices (for example, working outside during peak ultraviolet radiation level periods, or working without personal protective equipment whilst welding);
- People displaying symptoms from exposure to non-ionising radiation.

## Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- Suitable enclosures, shielding and barriers are installed;
- Outside work is scheduled to avoid high ultraviolet exposure periods of the day;
- Shade is provided for outside workers through the use of tents and other canopies;
- Non-ionising radiation sources are clearly identified and labelled;
- Appropriate protective clothing are available and used (for example, tight weave clothes, hats and sunblock (SPF 15+) for ultraviolet radiation);
- Access to equipment producing non-ionising radiation is limited to competent personnel, and that such equipment is kept separate from general work areas;
- Safety interlocks and fail safe switches are installed on non-ionising radiation producing equipment.

## To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

Specific regulations to note in respect of this topic are:

Regulation 71	Personal Protective Equipment
Regulation 76	Eye Protection
Regulation 79	Hand Protection

Regulation 81          Protective Clothing

Regulation 132        Lasers

Australian Standards and other available information applicable to this topic include:

[AS 2772](#)                Radiofrequency radiation (series)

[AS 2211](#)                Laser safety

[AS 1338](#)                Filters for eye protectors (series)

[AS 2243.5](#)              Non-ionising radiation

[AS 2397](#)                Safe use of lasers in the building and construction industry

*NT WorkSafe kindly acknowledges WorkCover SA.*

**For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or visit [www.worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au)**