



# Customer Focus on Loss Control

*Innovative Safety and Health Solutions<sup>SM</sup>*

## Safe Use of Lasers in Construction

The construction industry uses lasers for many applications. Lasers may be a concern to people who do not understand the effects and the level of power in the beam.

In construction, the laser is used primarily as a leveling device. It may be set up to indicate elevation, direction, or both. A laser used for this purpose will probably be a Class 1 laser, which is generally considered incapable of producing damaging levels of laser emission.

In its regulation for Non-Ionizing Radiation (29 CFR 1926.54), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) provides the standard for safe laser use. *All lasers used in construction are covered by this standard.* However, OSHA recognizes that the degree of hazard associated with low power lasers used in construction is relatively low and that Class 1 lasers are generally not hazardous.

Here are some good operating guidelines.



### **Safety Rules for Class 1 Lasers in Construction**

- Only qualified and trained people should set up, operate, or adjust the laser.
- The operator must be in the area and have proof of qualifications on his or her person.
- The laser beam should be set up over the heads of people in the area, when possible.
- Never direct the laser beam at people.
- When working with lasers, use your head for thinking, not as a laser target.
- The laser operating area should be posted with laser warning placards.
- The laser should be capped or shut off when not in use.
- Use only mechanical or electronic means for laser beam detectors.
- Avoid using lasers in heavy dust, snow, rain, or fog conditions.
- The laser must have the maximum beam output tag attached.

