



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



SA-04-01

Langley Research Center Safety Alert

Date: February 23, 2001

TO: All Langley Employees

FROM: 429/Head, Office of Safety and Facility Assurance, OSMA

SUBJECT: High Intensity Radiated Fields (HIRF) Sources

On February 14, 2001, the Office of Safety and Facility Assurance (OSFA) was informed of a laboratory operation, utilizing a Radio Frequency (RF) test set, without an approved LaRC Safety Permit (NASA Langley Form 498). The LaRC Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) immediately investigated the operation and determined that the resulting field strength in this laboratory was high and could pose a risk to equipment and test personnel.

Langley Procedure Guide 1710.8, "Nonionizing Radiation" indicates RF sources with power density levels above 10 milliwatts per square centimeter be issued a LaRC Safety Permit prior to beginning work. LAPG 1710.8 also indicates all technicians conducting work involving RF sources shall receive training prior to beginning work.

All Center employees should ensure the following steps are followed prior to working with RF sources, to prevent recurrence of this type of situation:

- Prepare a NASA Langley Form 49, "Safety Permit Request Laser/Microwave."
- Review the request with the Facility Safety Head and obtain his/her approval.
- Forward the request to the LaRC RSO for review and approval.
- Assist the RSO in a site review to ensure compliance with all applicable codes and regulations.

(This Safety Alert to be posted on Facility Bulletin Boards for a Minimum of 30 days.)

- Via the RSO, receive the approval of the Nonionizing Radiation Committee.
- Post the approved LaRC Safety Permit at the operation site.
- Ensure all test personnel receive the appropriate training from the RSO.

Any questions concerning this issue should be directed to the OSFA at extension 47233.



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