Information for sellers/suppliers of high-power laser pointers

* The Government recently introduced new laws to manage the health and safety risks from high-power laser pointers.
* From 1 March 20014 you can only **import**, **sell/supply**, and/or **acquire** a high-power laser pointer if you have obtained authorisation to from the Director-General of Health.[[1]](#footnote-1)

# What do the new laws mean for sellers of these devices?

* If you want to sell/supply any high-power laser pointer you must complete an application form, send it to the Ministry of Health, and receive authorisation to supply.
* You must not sell/supply any high-power laser pointer to people who do not have the required authorisation to acquire it (from the Ministry of Health).
* You will need to check your customers have obtained such authorisation. Ask them to show you they have the required authorisation.
* If you are a seller/supplier who also wants to *import* high power laser pointers, or *acquire* them for purposes other than sale/supply then you also need to get authorisation to do these things.
* Application forms for sellers/suppliers, buyers, and importers and further information are available on the Ministry of Health’s website (a web ink is provided below).

# What devices are covered by the new laws?

* The new laws define a high-power laser pointer as a device that:

1. in the Director-General of Health’s opinion, is of the kind commonly known as a laser pointer; and
2. is battery operated; and
3. is designed or intended to be operated while held in the hand; and
4. produces a coherent beam of optical radiation of low divergence (i.e., the beam does not fan out like a torch beam); and
5. has a power output of greater than 1 milliwatt (mW).

* The new laws do not cover laser pointers that are 1 mW or less in power. Some other laser devices are also exempt (e.g., surveying equipment).

# What can happen if you do not comply with the new laws?

* You can be fined for failing to comply with the new laws.

# Where do I get more information?

* More information about laser pointers, the new controls and their implications for you, and how to apply for authorisation is available on the [Ministry of Health’s website](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/environmental-health/high-power-laser-pointers).
* You can also email any questions on the new controls to [laserpointers@moh.govt.nz](mailto:laserpointers@moh.govt.nz)

1. The Custom Import Prohibition (High-power Laser Pointers) Order 2013 and Health (High-power Laser Pointers) Regulations 2013 refer. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)