



Board of Laser Safety

## CMLSO®

Certified Medical Laser Safety Officer  
Certification Maintenance Manual

This manual provides information about certification maintenance pertinent to CMLSOs.

### **Maintaining Certification**

After an individual has passed the certification examination he/she will be sent a certificate, a CMLSO wallet card, a CD that includes certification maintenance information and a CMLSO lapel pin. Maintaining certification is an important and vital part of becoming a CMLSO. As the industry and technology changes, so must the knowledge of a CMLSO.

The recertification fee of \$150.00 is due no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> after the third year and must be accompanied by the Certification Maintenance (CM) worksheet with supporting documentation. Failure to submit the form and recertification fee will result in inactive status, as discussed in more detail below. A CMLSO who turns in his/her form after the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline must also submit a \$50.00 late fee.

### **Rights and Privileges**

#### Certified Medical Laser Safety Officer (CMLSO)

A person who is certified by the Board of Laser Safety will receive an individually numbered certificate. That person may then use the

designations “Certified Medical Laser Safety Officer” or “CMLSO,” in accordance with the policies developed by the BLS so long as he/she is in good standing with the BLS.

A person who is not certified, who has let his/her certification expire, or is not in good dues standing may not use the designations “Certified Medical Laser Safety Officer” or “CMLSO.”

### **Code of Professional Conduct**

When you submitted your application to the BLS, you agreed to adhere to the Code of Professional Conduct. Each time you recertify you sign a similar statement. Any complaint against a CMLSO is addressed in the Disciplinary Procedures section of the CMLSO Policies & Procedures Manual.

This code provides principles of professional conduct for all laser safety officers certified by the Board of Laser Safety. As a requirement of being certified, such persons act professionally, safely, and in accordance with this code.

Certified Medical Laser Safety Officers shall:

1. Practice the profession using their knowledge and skill for the enhancement of safety and health of people whose lives and well-being may depend on their professional judgment.
2. Strive to increase or improve their self-development, competence, professional knowledge and skills in the area of laser safety.
3. Perform services and assignments only in the areas of their competence.
4. Act in the best interests of public health and safety.
5. Avoid conflicts of interest.
6. Be honest and impartial and act responsibly to uphold the integrity of the profession while serving the public,

- employees, employers and clients with fidelity.
7. Counsel the public, employees, employers and clients regarding potential health and safety risks to avoid unsafe practices and injury.
  8. Obey all federal and state laws applicable to the profession.

### **Details of Maintaining Certification**

#### Certification Maintenance (CM) Points

- 10 CM points must be obtained over each 3-year period.
- The CM cycle starts on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year following the year in which the individual passed the exam and ends on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the third year.
- An updated list of courses and activities eligible for CM points will be maintained by the BLS. You can obtain a listing by contacting the BLS or visiting the website at [www.lasersafety.org](http://www.lasersafety.org).

#### CM Point Categories

1. Laser Safety Experience, i.e., your job – category maximum of 3 CM points total<sup>1</sup>. One CM point per year for professional practice of laser safety to be certified in writing by CMLSO's supervisor. Refer to page 2 of the CMLSO Policies & Procedures Manual for specific responsibilities of an LSO.
2. Attendance<sup>2</sup> and successful completion of laser safety specific education and training – category maximum of 7 CM points total.  
Point breakdown:  
  - < 2 hours = ¼ CM point
  - 2 hours to 4 hours = ½ CM point
  - 4 hours to 6 hours = ¾ CM point
  - > 6 hours to 1 day = 1 CM point

<sup>1</sup> For each category, maximum number of points total means per the 3-year period

<sup>2</sup> Attendance means online, electronic or in person

3. Writing laser safety or laser application related articles published external of your organization in the form of peer review journals, proceedings, periodicals, books and book chapters, 1 CM point per article. Published magazine or newsletter submissions (print or online) will be accepted at ½ CM point per article – category maximum of 3 CM points total.
4. Teaching laser safety courses or laser safety in a course external from your organization, i.e., not part of your primary job responsibilities – category maximum of 3 CM points total.  
Point breakdown:  
  - < 2 hours = ¼ CM point
  - 2 hours to 4 hours = ½ CM point
  - 4 hours to 6 hours = ¾ CM point
  - > 6 hours to 1 day = 1 CM point
5. Membership in laser safety-related professional/technical organizations or societies, e.g., AORN, ASLMS, LIA, AIHA – category maximum of 3 CM points total, 1 CM point given per year of membership.
6. Active participation in laser safety standards or regulations committees external of your organization, i.e., at the regional, state, national or international level – category maximum of 3 CM points total. For example, a CMLSO could earn 1 CM point per year for being an active member of ANSI ASC Z136 or one of its subcommittees.
7. Attendance at laser safety or applications professional conferences or meetings – category maximum of 4 CM points total. For example, a CMLSO could earn 1 CM point for each day of attendance at the International Laser

- Safety Conference. Both the CM Point Request Form (for event host, see *Applying for CM Credit*) and Conference Verification Form (for individuals) may be downloaded from [www.lasersafety.org](http://www.lasersafety.org).
8. Presentations or poster papers at laser safety professional conferences or meetings, e.g., ILSC, AORN Congress, ASLMS annual conference – category maximum of 2 CM points total, ½ CM point given per presentation.
  9. Writing CMLSO exam questions – category maximum of 2 CM points total, ¼ CM point awarded for each accepted question.
  10. Other Activities – Points may be claimed for laser-related activities such as professional certifications (e.g., CNOR = ½ CM point), or reviewing medical journal articles. Article titles and access information will be delivered via the *BLS News & Review* e-newsletter; the Journal Article Verification Worksheet may be downloaded from [www.lasersafety.org](http://www.lasersafety.org) – category maximum of 2 CM points total.
  11. A CMLSO who is unable to achieve the 10 CM points required over the 3-year period and wishes to maintain his/her certification may retake the CMLSO exam, with the following limitations: (a) the exam must be taken and passed prior to the end of the 3-year cycle, i.e., before the December 31<sup>st</sup> expiration date, (b) payment for the exam is due prior to retaking the exam; however, the application process and \$50 fee will be waived; and (c) the individual has not participated on a BLS Review Board or proctored an exam during the 3-year period.

A current list of sample conferences ancillary to laser safety and a list of laser related professional/technical organizations and societies may be obtained by contacting the BLS or visiting [www.lasersafety.org](http://www.lasersafety.org).

#### Reviewing Certification Maintenance

It is the responsibility of the CMLSO to submit CM forms and recertification fees on time. Notices will be sent out only as a reminder to turn them in. All forms must be postmarked by January 31<sup>st</sup> after the third year. Failure to recertify by January 31<sup>st</sup> will result in “Inactive Status.” To restore status, CM worksheets accompanied with the recertification fee and a late fee of \$50 will be accepted up to and including May 31<sup>st</sup>. After that time, it will be necessary to retake the exam to become active again, which includes reapplying, resubmission of reference letters and payment of the \$50 application fee in addition to payment of the exam fee.

CM forms should include all supporting documentation. The BLS may or may not ask for additional supporting documentation when reviewing a CM form. Once a CM form has been reviewed and accepted by the BLS, a letter stating certification has been maintained will be sent to the CMLSO. If there are any questions with the CM form, a letter will be sent to the CMLSO requesting clarification and/or resolution. The CMLSO then has 60 days to resolve the situation with the BLS. If the situation is not resolved, the CMLSO will go to inactive status.

#### Applying for CM Credit

Organizations or individuals may apply for CM credits. The CM Point Request Form may be downloaded from [www.lasersafety.org](http://www.lasersafety.org).

If an organization believes it offers products and services that are beneficial to the continuing education of CMLSOs, it may

submit its offerings to the BLS for consideration.

If an individual attends a training course, or participates in an activity that is currently not approved for CM points, he/she may submit the information to the BLS for consideration of points toward Certification Maintenance.

If an activity is approved by the BLS for CM points, it will be assigned a unique BLS approval code and the number of CM points assigned.

CM worksheets may be downloaded from [www.lasersafety.org](http://www.lasersafety.org) or obtained by contacting the BLS. Completed forms should be sent directly to the BLS with all supporting documentation for consideration. Approval of CM points is an approximate one-month process. Only activities that contribute to continuing education in the area of lasers and laser safety will be considered.