

Using equipment which produces UV light

General Safety Guidelines

UV radiation can irreversibly damage the eyes and skin. You must take precautions by adhering to standard operating procedure (SOP) and using personal protective equipment (PPE) where applicable.

The use of UV in the laboratory is governed by 'The control of Artificial Optical Radiation at Work Regulations 2010'.

Transilluminators



The UV light emitted from a transilluminator has peak outputs at 254nm or 312nm – within biologically active UV-C and UV-B regions.

The following safety precautions are advised:

- UV boxes should be kept in low occupancy areas, preferably in separate rooms.
- Minimize contact time with the UV source.
- Maximize distance by working at arms' length and avoid stooping over the work surface.
- Wear a full face shield designed for UV filtration (this is provided)
- Wearing safety spectacles in addition to the full face shield improves protection and is recommended.
- Wear a full button lab coat with neck protection and full sleeves.
- Wear nitrile gloves at all times whilst UV light is in operation.

Symptoms of UV over exposure:

Skin reddening, blistering and discomfort. A sandy, gritty feeling may be felt in the eyes.

If you experience any of these symptoms should obtain medical attention as soon as possible.

For help when working with UV light please contact:

Sam Benson (H&S Co-ordinator): ext. 2377 s.l.benson@qmul.ac.uk

Emergency telephone number: ext. 3333