



# Misuse of Lasers – Illumination of ATC Towers

## How to proceed

### Instructions for ANS provider:

1. Define and establish internal processes and procedures (good practices / immediate actions) for information to ATCOs about dangers of laser illuminations, how to protect themselves and how to report incidents in relation with laser beams.
2. Ensure the event is recorded and then correctly reported to the authority for further investigation.
3. The supervisor should establish contact with the responsible police unit in case of illumination and provide coordinates of light source.

### Instructions for ATCOs:

1. Take action to protect yourself:
  - Look away from the laser beam if possible. DO NOT try to find the light source by staring at the laser. If possible, note location of laser source.
  - Shield eyes and consider feasibility of lowering/raising 'sun blinds' to reduce the effect of the laser.
  - Avoid rubbing the eyes to reduce the potential for corneal abrasion.
  - Consider feasibility of turning up the Tower lights to minimise any further illumination effects.
2. If affected:
  - Consider handing over the control position to a non-exposed colleague.
3. In any case:
  - Inform aircraft under your control about the laser illumination and location.
  - Inform supervisor about laser attack, who shall contact local police.
  - File an incident report to FOCA, using established company reporting system.

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#### Sources considered:

- SKYbrary documentation (<http://www.skybrary.aero>); and
- Eurocontrol "Safety Warning Message; Misuse of Lasers – Illumination of Aircraft and ATC Towers", published 18/06/2009