Section 2

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­

**INTRODUCTION**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The term LASER is an acronym for **L**ight **A**mplification by **S**timulated **E**mission of **R**adiation. When energized, a laser emits an extremely collimated beam of intense monochromatic electromagnetic radiation ranging from the ultraviolet region through the visible region to the infrared region of the spectrum. The type of laser, the wavelength of the beam, and the use of the laser determine potential hazards as well as the intensity of the emitted radiation.

The following quote taken from the Laser Safety Institute of America’s Laser Safety Manual states quite eloquently what the goal of a laser safety program should be and how that goal can be achieved:

“The success of a laser safety program depends on many people and organizations working together to achieve a common goal. This goal is simple: To use lasers safely and to comply with regulations and accepted industry standards. In order to achieve and maintain this goal, responsibilities are shared among all involved.”

The goal of the LSU Baton Rouge Laser Safety Program is to use lasers safely, while complying with any applicable regulations and/or industry standards.