

Safety Alert

Laser Cutting Equipment

Background

Health & Safety and Trading Standards officers have become aware of cheap laser cutters which are available from as little as £80 to £100, instead of the usual £000s. They might seem appealing for schools' design & technology classrooms because of their cheap price.

What is the hazard?

The problematic equipment does not comply with the 'Machinery Directive' or The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008.

The basic issues are as follows:

- Lack of function to extract fumes away from the area.
- No interlock function, so it's possible to put your hand in the way of the laser



- The examples shown don't even have a cover or lid system.
- The laser operates without a red dot so it's invisible.
- It could be left switched on without anyone realising.
- Combustible materials such as paper, could accidentally put in the way and catch fire.
- The PPE glasses they are supplied with are inadequate and won't offer any eye protection.

There are also cheap glasses available for as little as 99p. You should expect to pay at least £200 for decent protective glasses.

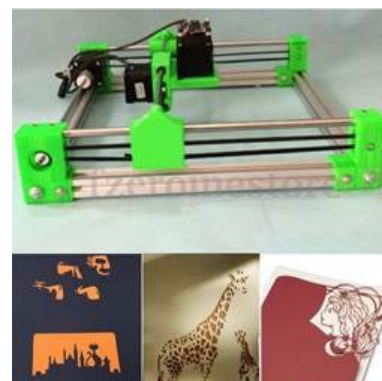
What you should do now

Not all laser cutter machines are unsafe. There are legitimate brands and suppliers that comply with safety legislation.

But if you have one of these cheap laser cutters, **stop using it immediately.**

If you are in doubt, contact your [health & safety advisor](#).

Further safety advice about this and other science and technology issues is available on the [CLEAPSS website](#).



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