

Saving at a Cost

A project team needed alignment equipment incorporating an eye safe Class 2 laser. They were quoted **£60k**, but an online search found a cheaper **£6k** version, which they ordered.

The equipment arrived with minimal paperwork and there was no laser classification information. The OLRO was alerted who then conducted characterisation measurements, revealing the laser was not a Class 2 laser. Further tests showed it was in fact a Class 3R laser, which is not considered eye safe.

To make the laser eye safe, the project sourced a suitable filter to reduce the power of the laser, at an additional cost.



Key Message:

Cost savings can have important health and safety implications

- **DO** your research
- **DO NOT** just buy cheap.

Good Practice:

- ✓ Always use a reputable supplier.
- ✓ Ensure equipment is CE or UKCA marked, and laser products conform to BS EN 60825-1.
- ✓ Inform the OLRO before purchasing new lasers.
- ✓ Inspect and test new equipment before first use.

