

DANGEROUS LASER POINTERS ARE BANNED IN SWITZERLAND FROM JUNE 1ST 2019; NON-HAZARDOUS POINTERS CAN STILL BE USED

What is the purpose of the Federal Council's ban on laser pointers?

The ban aims to prevent people being injured or dazzled in a hazardous way by the beam from dangerous laser pointers.

What is a laser pointer?

A laser pointer is a hand-held laser that can be used to point to things, for amusement (as a toy or in hobbies), to scare off animals or to drive away other people.

What exactly does the ban apply to?

Owning a dangerous laser pointer. Importing dangerous laser pointers into Switzerland.

Transiting dangerous laser pointers through Switzerland, i.e. importing and subsequently exporting them.

Issuing dangerous laser pointers, i.e. any offering that involves distributing, issuing or using a laser pointer, whether free of charge or in return for payment.

Can I still use banned laser pointers?

No, you must cease to use class 1M, 2M, 3R, 3B and 4 pointers, and pointers with no markings from June 1st 2019. This does not apply to class 2 pointers, which can still be used indoors until June 1st 2021.

Where can I get more information?

You can find further information on laser pointers of the Federal Office of Public Health's website at www.bag.admin.ch/laserpointers

How do I dispose of banned laser pointers?

Dispose of them as electrical waste. You can find your nearest disposal point with the aid of the <https://recycling-map.ch/en/> website, for example, or using the "Recycling Map" smartphone app that is available for iOS and Android.

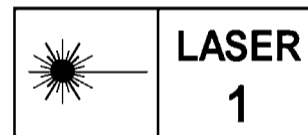
Remove the batteries first and dispose of them at a battery collection point. If it is impossible to remove the batteries from the pointer, you can dispose of the entire device at the battery collection point.

Until when do I have to dispose of banned laser pointers?

You must dispose of class 1M, 2M, 3R, 3B or 4 laser pointers and pointers with no markings before June 1st 2020 and class 2 laser pointers until June 1st 2021.

How can I tell if my laser pointer is safe and permitted?

The laser pointer is safe if it carries the marking shown below.



How can I tell if my laser pointer is dangerous and banned?

The laser pointer carries markings indicating whether it is in laser classes 1M, 2, 2M, 3R, 3B or 4. The markings may be in German, French or English. The laser pointer is dangerous if it carries other markings such as class 3a, IIIA or 1c laser.

The laser pointer is dangerous if it carries no decipherable marking indicating which laser class it belongs to, or if it carries no marking at all.

