



VIA USPS

November 21, 2018

Ron Mateas
EPSON AMERICA, INC.
3840 KILROY AIRPORT WAY, MS3-13
LONG BEACH, CA 90806

Re: FDA Docket Number: 2018-V-3317
Accession Number: RH18A0204

Dear Mr. Epstein:

The Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) is approving, in accordance with 21 CFR 1010.4(c)(1), the petition of Epson America, Inc. (“the firm”) dated August 23, 2018, for a variance from 21 CFR 1040.11(c) of the performance standard for laser products.

This variance will allow the introduction into commerce of the laser light shows that incorporate Laser Illuminated Projectors (LIPs), described in Section D below, by the laser light show manufacturer.

A. Variance Number

2018-V-3317

B. Effective Date

This variance shall become effective on the date of this letter in accordance with 21 CFR 1010.4(c)(1).

C. Termination Date

This variance shall be terminated after December 31, 2019, unless extended by the submission of an annual report. This variance shall be extended for one year effective December 31st following the due date of an annual report if, and only if, the annual report has been submitted as required by 21 CFR 1002.13. In subsequent years, the variance shall be terminated after December 31st following the due date of an annual report if the annual report has not been submitted as required by 21 CFR 1002.13.

D. Product(s) for Which Variance is Granted

This variance is granted for the Risk Group 3 (RG3) laser light shows manufactured by the firm that incorporate any of the following certified LIPs: Epson, Pro L20000U, Pro L20000UNL, Pro L200002U, and Pro L200002UNL projectors.

The firm may incorporate into their laser light shows any LIPs which have been certified and reported by the firm or by another LIP manufacturer under an approved laser light show variance, except:

1. Projection systems designed or intended to produce visible effects by means of invisible laser emissions, or
2. Projection systems designed for producing effects other than front or rear screen projections.

The firm's laser light shows may be presented in temporary or permanent installations in any type of facility or outdoor space. RG3 LIPs may only be used to create front or rear screen projection effects. RG3 LIPs are not designed or intended for home use.

E. Provisions From Which Variance is Granted

This variance is granted from the portion of 21 CFR 1040.11(c) of the performance standard for laser products which requires that each demonstration laser product shall not permit human access to laser radiation in excess of the accessible emission limits of Class IIIa.

All other provisions of the applicable performance standard(s) remain applicable to the product.

F. Conditions Under Which Variance is Granted

In lieu of the requirement(s) referred to in Item E above, the conditions as specified below in Variance Attachment(s) E shall apply to the laser light shows assembled and produced under this variance.

G. Basis for Approval of Variance

In accordance with 21 CFR 1010.4(a)(2), it has been determined that the product is required to perform a necessary function or is intended for a special purpose which cannot be performed or accomplished with equipment meeting the requirements referred to in Section E. Suitable means of radiation safety and protection will be provided by constraints on the physical and optical design, installation requirements, and by warnings in the user/purchaser information.

This variance action will be posted to the Docket associated with your variance request and made available for public view online at www.regulations.gov. The variance will remain in effect until the termination date unless the variance is amended or withdrawn, or the provisions of the standard from which the variance is granted are amended before the termination date.

Should you have any questions or comments pertaining to this letter, please contact Lowell Howard by email at Lowell.Howard@fda.hhs.gov or by telephone at (240) 402-0413. In any follow-up correspondence, please clearly reference FDA Variance Number 2018-V-3317 and include a contact email address.

Sincerely,

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Robert Ochs, Ph.D.
Director
Division of Radiological Health
Office of In Vitro Diagnostics and Radiological Health
Center for Devices and Radiological Health

cc: FDA Division of Dockets Management, Docket Number 2018-V-3317

Enclosure(s): Attachments E

ATTACHMENT E

1. This variance is not transferable to any other firm or person and applies only to the specific products identified in the variance.
2. All laser products, systems, shows, and projectors shall be certified to comply with applicable requirements of 21 CFR 1040.10 and the conditions of this variance and be reported as required by 21 CFR 1002.10 and 1002.11 using the reporting guides provided for such purpose. These actions shall be accomplished prior to any introduction into commerce.
3. The annual report required by 21 CFR 1002.13 shall be submitted by September 1st of the current year as a condition for renewal of this variance effective December 31st following the due date of the annual report. The annual report shall also include a list identifying all laser illuminated projectors (LIPs) used in shows by your firm during the reported year. The list shall include manufacturer, model designation, and accession number under which each projector was reported. [Note, firms granted a new variance after June 30th do not have an annual report required in the year of issuance, but will have an annual report required in subsequent years.]
4. Effects other than front or rear screen projections shall not be performed. Any additional effects require the submission of a variance amendment request (in accordance with 21 CFR 1010.4) and the filing of product reports or supplements as applicable.
5. LIPs distributed under this variance shall be installed by the LIP manufacturer or by a trained, manufacturer-authorized installer. Show installations must be performed in accordance with the LIP manufacturer's instructions. If not installed by the manufacturer or by a manufacturer-authorized installer, the LIP shall not be transferred to any other party until the recipient has demonstrated that they have a variance, as required, in effect that permits them to manufacture certified laser light shows incorporating these LIPs. If a variance is required, a notation of the recipient's variance number and its effective date, as applicable, shall be entered by the firm and retained in the records of compliance test results required by 21 CFR 1002.30.
6. A Hazard Zone is the region of space where the projection light from the LIP exceeds the Emission Limits for RG2. For installations other than in cinema theaters, the LIP shall be installed at a height vertically above the floor such that the bottom plane of the Hazard Zone shall be no lower than 3 meters above the floor. Horizontal clearance to the hazard zone shall be 2.5 meters. Cinema theater installations shall locate the Hazard Zone no lower than 2.5 meter above the floor and shall provide no less than 1 meter of horizontal clearance. Any human access horizontally to the Hazard Zone, if applicable, shall be restricted by barriers. If human access is possible in an unsupervised environment, the horizontal or vertical clearances shall be increased to prevent exposure to the RG3 hazard zone.

In areas where audience access is restricted, LIP Hazard Zones shall be clearly identified by the posting of warning signs and/or restricted through physical means (such as pressure switches, photocells, barriers, guards, etc.). These requirements apply to temporary areas (such as during setup and alignment procedures) and to final or permanent areas.

7. For firm-operated, temporary RG3 LIP installations, including those for customer or trade show demonstrations, the firm shall assure that:
 - (a) The LIP(s) are located so that all propagating beam paths within the Hazard Zone, and the audience, can be directly observed at all times;
 - (b) Communication is maintained with other personnel if assisting in surveillance of the LIP projection;
 - (c) In the event of any unsafe condition, LIP projection light is immediately terminated.
 - (d) One or more readily accessible controls to immediately terminate LIP projection light is provided.
8. The projection system shall be securely mounted or immobilized to prevent unintended movement or misalignment.
9. The requirements of 21 CFR 1002.30(a)(1) and (2) shall be accomplished through the use of written procedures for setup, alignment, testing, and performance of each show. These procedures shall be in sufficient detail to ensure compliance with 21 CFR 1040.10, the conditions of this variance, and any emergency shutdown requirements, and the control of access to radiation areas using the procedures described in the ANSI Z136.1:2007 Standard For The Safe Use of Lasers (available from The Laser Institute of America, 13501 Ingenuity Drive, Suite 128, Orlando, Florida 32826) or any other equivalent user consensus standard and, where applicable, State or local requirements.
10. The variance holder shall retain the records of these procedures and the results of all tests as required by 21 CFR 1002.31. A copy of the variance approval letter shall be with the operator or other responsible individual. The variance application, variance approval letter, and if applicable, the most recent annual report, CDRH acknowledgment of receipt for the annual report, current procedures, and records relating to each particular show shall be made available for inspection by FDA and other responsible authorities.
11. For temporary installations, the firm or person to whom this variance is issued shall maintain complete records of all show itineraries with dates, locations, operator name, and contact information clearly and completely identified. Records shall contain the specific equipment used and a basic description of proposed effects. These records shall be available to the Food and Drug Administration upon request.

12. The LIP shall be installed in accordance with any applicable state or local regulations pertaining to operation of laser Class IIIb, Class IV or Risk Group 3 projector systems for public use. It is the joint responsibility of the firm and the installation owner, or manager, to determine whether there are applicable state or local statutes and/or regulatory requirements, and if so, to meet those requirements prior to beginning to operate the LIP.