

# WARNING !!

## Shining a laser pointer at other ships can endanger them!

Instances of high-power laser pointers (foreign-made) being pointed at other vessels are occurring.

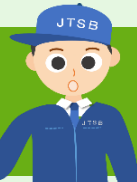


Shining a laser pointer may seem like a good way to attract attention...  
But it is actually very hazardous!

### »» Actual cases of laser pointer use

Accident investigations and a questionnaire survey of passenger ferries found 25 instances of a laser pointer being pointed at another vessel instead of a light signal.

In some cases, watchkeepers who had a laser pointer pointed at them were temporarily blinded. And in others, crew members who were using binoculars when illuminated had difficulty handling their watch duties!

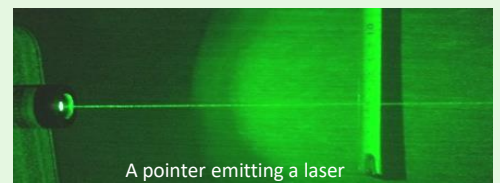


### »» Effects on the eyes

An analysis\* found that, when a laser pointer (between 1 and 5 watts) is pointed at a person using binoculars, harmful effects on the eyes can occur at a distance of one or two miles. Moreover, high-power pointers can affect the eyes at even greater distances.

\*Part of an analytical investigation by the National Maritime Research Institute

Seafarers depend on their eyes. Therefore, laser pointers that don't comply with the law should never be pointed at other vessels. But even more, it is best to never use them at all due to the danger of blinding your own crew!



### »» If a ship points a laser at you...

Please provide information such as the ship's name as far as you can to Japan Coast Guard.