

Subject: Laser Cutters – Safety Alert

Safety Alert No 5, issued 21 February 2018

In a recent incident in one of our Centres, an unattended VersaLASER VLS 3.50 laser cutter caught fire when in use. Fortunately the fire was extinguished by a member of staff and the NIFRS were in attendance as the building's automated fire detection system was activated.

The root cause of this incident is currently under investigation in conjunction with the manufacturer. Until such times as a definitive causation can be established, **you must ensure that this type of equipment is not left unattended whilst in operation and that cut product is removed from it on a regular basis. Also, you must ensure the power setting, speed and depth of cut are set correctly to minimise the risk of ignition of the workpiece.**

