



International Electrotechnical Commission
Technical Committee 76
Optical Radiation Safety and Laser Equipment

November 17, 2008

Mr. Michael Lynch
Chair, IEEE 802.18
(mjlynch@nortel.com)

Dear Mr. Lynch,

Your letter, received September 30, was considered by the experts of TC 76 during our meeting earlier this month in Beijing. TC 76 is aware of and shares the concerns expressed in your letter.

TC 76 is preparing an Interpretation Sheet (ISH) to IEC 60825-12 with all due haste. This ISH is expected to state that LEDs employed for free space optical data transmission should not be considered to be within the scope of that standard. Further, IEC 62471 should be used to determine the risk group of LED free space products for data communication. The ISH is intended as an interim remedy pending amendment of IEC 60825-12.

Please note that LEDs employed in optical fiber communications systems will continue to be within the scope of IEC 60825-2 and will be classified according to the conditions specified in IEC 60825-1, Edition 1.2. TC 76/WG 5 believes that this is appropriate because of the small angular subtense of optical fibers as sources that may be viewed.

Please also note that the ISH and any amendments to the 60825 standards require approval by the Participating Nation members of TC 76 to be published.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Dennis', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Jerome E. (Jerry) Dennis
Chairman, IEC TC 76