



December 19, 2005

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane Room 1061  
Rockville Md. 20852

Re: GCP-1A & GCP-2 Variance Application for Night Vision Equipment Company (NVEC)

Director,

This is an application for variance from certain emission standards in accordance with Title 21, CFR 1010.4 Subchapter J. The products submitted for variance herein are the GCP-1A and GCP-2 laser pointers manufactured by NVEC. The detailed Variance Application is attached for your review.

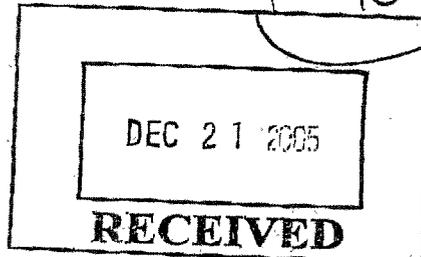
A Product Report was submitted to the Center for Devices and Radiological Health as required in Title 21, CFR 1002.10 Subchapter J, but that is not part of this Application.

The GCP-1A & GCP-2 are field proven applications of infrared technology intended to mark and illuminate items of interest in environments similar to combat, combat training or high security of national interest.

Both the GCP-1A & -2 Pointers project an invisible infrared light which can only be seen with night vision devices. Internal lenses in the GCP-1A & -2 focus the infrared light into a narrow beam. Each device incorporates a built-in momentary switch that serves the function of both the emission indicator and beam attenuator within the intent of the regulations. This allows the operator to conduct surveillance operations without detection, under the cloak of darkness. Any audible or visible emission indicator could seriously compromise the safety of law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties.

Both the GCP-1A & -2 contain an ON/OFF switch that must be depressed before laser emissions can occur. When this switch is released, the emissions cease. The switch connects two AA batteries through an electronic control circuit to activate the device. The ON/OFF switch is protected by a Safety Cover which must be in the ARMED position before the ON/OFF switch can be activated. Thus, several intentional steps must occur before emissions can be transmitted from the GCP-1A or -2. The protective Safety Cover also prevents inadvertent activation of the GCP-1A or -2. The remote switch (available only on the GCP-2) contains a switch that requires strong activation pressure in an indentation designed to prevent inadvertent activation.

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The GCP-1A is a hand held infrared pointer and illuminator. The GCP-2 is the same device except that the GCP-2 is weapon mounted and contains:

- A mechanical weapon mounting and a bore sight mechanism
- A power reduction control knob and circuit to reduce unwanted 'blooming' in the operator's night vision goggles during certain operating conditions.
- Windage and elevation adjustments used to zero the light beam to coincide with the line of fire of the weapon. Once adjusted the Pointer projects the beam only along the line of fire of the weapon.

On both products, a variable lens controls the beam width, depending on operational needs (pointing or illuminating) from .5mrad to 30°. As the beam moves from a pointer to spot illumination mode, the on axis position of the beam is maintained. This eliminates off axis viewing of the beam.

On both products, a laser training safety selector permits reduction of the laser output to eye-safe levels for training and force-on-force maneuvers. Output reduction is achieved via 180° rotation of the laser training safety selector with a small slot screwdriver. This feature assures safe operation in the training and force-on-force modes.

Without the variances, the GCP-1A & -2 will not be able to assist and protect Federal Homeland Security and Law enforcement officers in the conduct of their routine, authorized duties.

The intended use of this product is by government, military and law enforcement agencies in the routine execution of their duties. Night Vision Equipment Company restricts the sale and resale of the GCP-1A & GCP-2 laser Pointers to government, military and law enforcement agencies including law enforcement personnel.

We appreciate your consideration in this matter. If you have questions regarding this variance application, please contact me.

  
Don Grise

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Attachments:

Variance Application for the GCP-1A & GCP-2  
Operator Manuals GCP-1A & GCP-2



**Variance Application of Night Vision Equipment Company (NVEC)**

This variance application is requested for the NVEC infrared pointing and marking products named GCP-1A and GCP-2.

NVEC responses to CFR Part 21, Subchapter J, Section 1010.4 variance application questions are:

**(a) Criteria for variances. (1) Upon application by a manufacturer (including an assembler), the Director, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Food and Drug Administration, may grant a variance from one or more provisions of any performance standard under subchapter J of this chapter for an electronic product subject to such standard when the Director determines that granting such variance is in keeping with the purposes of the Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act of 1968, and:**

**(i) The scope of the requested variance is so limited in its applicability as to justify an amendment to the standard, or**

The sale of the GCP-1A & GCP-2 will be strictly limited to Federal Homeland security and Federal law enforcement officers or agencies. This very limited applicability will not require amendment to the standard since this product will not be available to the general public under this variance.

**(ii) There is not sufficient time for the promulgation of an amendment to the standard.**

NA

**(2) The issuance of the variance shall be based upon a determination that:**

**(i) The product utilizes an alternate means for providing radiation safety or protection equal to or greater than that provided by products meeting all requirements of the applicable standard, or**

NA



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**(ii) The product performs a function or is intended for a purpose which could not be performed or accomplished if required to meet the applicable standards, and suitable means for assuring radiation safety or protection are provided, or**

Variations are sought for the GCP-1A & -2 in order that these products may perform their intended function and purpose.

The GCP-1A & -2 are field proven applications of infrared technology intended to mark and illuminate items of interest in environments similar to combat, combat training or high level national interest security. Without the variations, the GCP-1A & -2 will not be able to perform these functions, which will assist in protect Federal Homeland Security and Law enforcement officers in the conduct of their authorized duties.

GCP-1A & -2 both contain features such as a power safety switch cover, lens cover, as well as an eye safe laser training mode and selector which are suitable means to assure radiation safety during intended use.

**(iii) One or more requirements of the applicable standard are not appropriate, and suitable means for assuring radiation safety or protection are provided.**

NA

**(b) Applications for variations.** If you are submitting an application for variations or for amendments or extensions thereof, you must submit an original and three copies to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

**(1) The application for variance shall include the following information:**

**(i) A description of the product and its intended use.**

The GCP-1A & -2 are field proven applications of infrared technology intended to mark and illuminate items of interest in environments similar to combat, combat training or high level national interest security.

The GCP-1A is a hand held infrared pointer and illuminator. The GCP-2 is the same device except that the GCP-2 is weapon mounted and contains:

- o A mechanical weapon mounting and a bore sight mechanism.
- o A power reduction control knob and circuit to reduce unwanted "blow off" in the operator's night vision goggles during certain operating conditions.
- o Windage and elevation adjustments used to zero the light beam to coincide with the line of fire of the weapon. Once adjusted the Pointer projects the beam only along the line of fire of the weapon.

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- o Remote control switch and cable to enable the GCP-2 to be activated while on a weapon while the Federal Law enforcement officer is partially concealed to maintain the covert position of the agent or officer.

On both products, a variable lens controls the beam width, depending on operational needs (pointing or illuminating) from .5mr to 30°. As the beam moves from a pointer to spot illumination mode, the on axis position of the beam is maintained. This eliminates off axis viewing of the beam.

**(ii) An explanation of how compliance with the applicable standard would restrict or be inappropriate for this intended use.**

The GCP-1A & -2 are designed and manufactured in order to mark and illuminate items of interest in environments similar to combat or combat training. Modification of this the current designs to meet applicable standards would result in the products having the potential to:

1. Reveal a Federal officers' surveillance position, endangering the officers' lives.
2. Delay a Federal officers' speed of operation in a potentially life-threatening situation, endangering the agents' or officers' lives.
3. Significantly reduce the effectiveness of these products, increasing the risk for the Federal officer to the exposure to unrecognized threats to his or her life.

**(iii) A description of the manner in which it is proposed to deviate from the requirements of the applicable standard.**

The GCP-1A & -2 proposed deviations from the requirements of the applicable standard are as follows:

- a. These products will not include the key control, required per 1040.10(f)(4)
- b. These products will include a momentary on/off switch that provides a tactile emission indicator for the operator, but it will not include the emission indicator delay required per 1040.10(f)(5)
- c. The products will not include the remote interlock connector, required per 1040.10(f)(3)
- d. The GCP-2 contains a remote fire switch which is indented and requires strong pressure to activate, providing a tactile emission indicator for the operator, but it will not include the emission indicator delay required per 1040.10(f)(5).

**(iv) A description of the advantages to be derived from such deviation.**

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The GCP-1A & -2 will enable Federal officers perform covert marking, surveillance and identification functions. Variances requested from this standard will provide sufficient product function (power, speed and flexibility of operation) so as to protect Federal officers as they perform their job functions in environments similar to combat and combat training.

**(v) An explanation of how alternate or suitable means of radiation protection will be provided.**

The GCP-1A and GCP-2 are to be sold only to Federal Homeland Security and law enforcement personnel and Federal agencies, and restrictions will be placed on resale of the products.

These products are each to be provided with:

1. A clearly marked eye safe laser training safety selector.
2. Fixed beam orientation design that projects all laser power in range in the defined beam pattern only.
3. Safety cover for the power switch to eliminate inadvertent activation.
4. Lens cover to eliminate inadvertent emissions when not in use.
5. Soft carrying case which will eliminate accidental radiation emissions when the unit is stored.
6. The Operator Manuals (GCP-1A and GCP-2, attached) contain the appropriate laser safety warnings and recommendations for training.

These features require the operator to take several intentional steps before fully empowering the laser (either local or remote operation), providing suitable protection from inadvertent exposure to fully powered laser emissions.

For the GCP-2 remote switch, the remote fire switch is indented and requires strong pressure to activate, providing suitable protection from inadvertent exposure to fully powered laser emissions, while maintaining the operational features to safeguard the lives of the Federal agents or officers.

**(vi) The period of time it is desired that the variance be in effect, and, if appropriate, the number of units the applicant wishes to manufacture.**

December 31, 2005 to December 31, 2010.

**(vii) In the case of prototype or experimental equipment, the proposed location of each unit.**

GCP-1A & -2 are currently in full production and not in prototype or the experimental stage.

**(viii) Such other information required by regulation or by the Director, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, to evaluate and act on the application.**

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NVEC will provide additional information as required by the Director to assist in evaluation and action upon this application. 5

**(ix) With respect to each nonclinical laboratory study contained in the application, either a statement that the study was conducted in compliance with the good laboratory practice regulations set forth in part 58 of this chapter, or, if the study was not conducted in compliance with such regulations, a brief statement of the reason for the noncompliance.**

NA

**(x) [Reserved]**

**(xi) If the electronic product is used in a clinical investigation involving human subjects, is subject to the requirements for institutional review set forth in part 56 of this chapter, and is subject to the requirements for informed consent set forth in part 50 of this chapter, the investigation shall be conducted in compliance with such requirements.**

NA

**2) The application for amendment or extension of a variance shall include the following information:**

This application is only for the initial variance request.