VHS SECURITY TAPE DE-MAGNETISERS

For security purposes The University of Liverpool makes use of de-magnetisers to erase the VHS tapes that record CCTV security video footage. Legally these tapes must be erased before they can be re-used to store further information.

The type of device used (FBE-11 Tape Eraser) is approximately the size of an A4 box file. Once switched on, the video cassette is passed over the eraser deck a number of times in various orientations. The 50 Hertz oscillating magnetic field generated by the device erases the information stored on the magnetic tape medium.

**NOTE:** When the eraser is switched on it generates a **STRONG MAGNETIC FIELDS** which extend to a distance of a few metres from the unit. These fields can interfere with other electrical equipment, most notably cardiac pacemakers within 2 metres.

**NOTE:** Magnetic fields are not stopped or shielded by normal walls (i.e. brick, concrete, plaster etc.) or doors (i.e. wood, plastic etc.). If the eraser is positioned against a wall, the magnetic field produced when it is switched on will pass through the wall and into the adjacent room or corridor.

The eraser should only need to be used for a few minutes each day.

**Safety Instructions.**

1. The eraser must NOT be used by any person who has a cardiac pacemaker or any other bio-electrical implant.
2. Before switching on the eraser ensure that all other persons in the vicinity are at least 2 metres away from the device.
3. Before switching on the eraser display the warning signs (provided by the Radiation Protection Office) at appropriate positions e.g. on the outside of the door to the room, or in a window.
4. Before switching on the eraser, remove watches and credit cards to a distance of 2 metres.
5. If possible the eraser should only be operated at times when the area is likely to be as clear of personnel as possible e.g. at 5pm or later.
6. Steps should be taken to only operate the eraser in a location where a 2 metre ‘exclusion zone’ around it can be supervised and controlled.
7. Switch off the eraser immediately after use.