

The International EMF Project
^{21st} International Advisory Committee Meeting
1-3 June 2016, Brussels, Belgium
Report on National Activities

Canada

Policies, Guidelines and Regulations

Health Canada

Health Canada recently published an updated version of its human exposure guidelines to radiofrequency electromagnetic energy, entitled “Limits of Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Energy in the Frequency Range from 3 kHz to 300 GHz - Safety Code 6 (2015)”. This document can be accessed at: (http://hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/pubs/radiation/radio_guide-lignes_direct/index-eng.php)

Publication of Safety Code 6 (2015) follows an independent review by an Expert Panel of the Royal Society of Canada (http://rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/SC6_Report_Formatted_1.pdf) and a 60-day public consultation (http://hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/consult/_2014/safety_code_6-code_securite_6/index-eng.php). Health Canada’s response to comments received during the public consultation are available at: (http://hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/consult/_2014/safety_code_6-code_securite_6/feedback_commentaires-eng.php)

Safety Code 6 is accompanied by a “Technical Guide for Interpretation and Compliance Assessment of Health Canada’s Radiofrequency Exposure Guidelines”, to assist users in understanding and assessing the safety of electromagnetic exposures in working and living environments. A ‘Rationale’ document describing the derivation of the exposure limits in Safety Code 6 is also available upon request. To obtain electronic copies of these documents, please contact: ccrpb-pcrpcc@hc-sc.gc.ca

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), formerly known as Industry Canada, the Canadian regulator for radiocommunication and broadcasting installations as well as radiocommunication apparatus, has recently published the following technical documents related to RF exposure compliance:

RSS-102 — Radio Frequency (RF) Exposure Compliance of radiocommunication Apparatus (All Frequency Bands), March 2015. The purpose of this document is to set out the requirements and measurement techniques used to evaluate RF exposure compliance of radiocommunication apparatus that are designed to be used within the vicinity of the human body. This document also has incorporated the official Safety Code 6 (2015) limits in this Issue. The document is available online (<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf01904.html>)

TN-261 - Safety Code 6 (SC6) Radio Frequency Exposure Compliance Evaluation Template (Uncontrolled Environment Exposure Limits), March 2015. The purpose of this document is to provide an evaluation tool to quickly assess the radio frequency (RF) exposure compliance of simple antenna sites. The intent is to provide a nationally consistent approach regarding the evaluation compliance with Canadian RF exposure limits. The document is available online (<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf09976.html>)

GL-01 — Guidelines for the Measurement of Radio Frequency Fields at Frequencies From 3 KHz to 300 GHz, March 2015. The purpose of this technical note is to describe measurement procedures for different types of radiocommunication and broadcasting installations when verifying compliance with the “uncontrolled environment” limits as set out in Health Canada’s Safety Code 6. The document is available online (<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/smt-gst.nsf/eng/sf01451.html>)

SPR-002 – Supplementary Procedure for Assessing Compliance to the Peripheral Nerve Stimulation (PNS) Exposure Limits, to be published on May 26th 2016. The purpose of this procedure is to set the general test methods applicable to performing an assessment to the Peripheral Nerve Stimulation (PNS) exposure limits on a radio apparatus that operates between 3 kHz and 10 MHz.

In addition, ISEDC has also updated the Facts about in Your Community in 2014. This Facts about towers is available at the following website: (<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ic-gc.nsf/eng/07422.html>)

Since January 2012, the SAR values of a specific cell phone model can be obtained for almost all cell phones by using the ISEDC Certification Number for that model through ISEDC's Radio Equipment List (REL) database. In 2015, the database is running on a new platform available at the following website (<https://sms-sgs.ic.gc.ca/equipmentSearch/searchRadioEquipments?execution=e2s1>).

A Frequency Asked Questions on SAR was also published in conjunction with the publication of the SAR values. This FAQ is available at the following website: (http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ceb-bhst.nsf/eng/h_tt00084.html)

Areas of Public Concern

Public concern about the possibility of health risks resulting from exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs) emitted from various wireless devices and their infrastructure in living, working and school environments continues to be an issue in Canada. In the past year, these concerns have included the safety of installing Wi-Fi equipment in schools, the implementation of smart meter technology on homes and businesses as well as base-station siting in residential neighborhoods.

In response to public concern, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health undertook an analysis of "Radiofrequency electromagnetic radiation and the health of Canadians." The report is available at the following website:
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Committee/412/HESA/Reports/RP8041315/hesarp13/hesarp13-e.pdf>