

Report 2014 of Activities in the field of EMF in Germany

Dr Birgit Keller, Federal Ministry for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
Division RS II 4

1. New legislation (ELF and EMF)

Legal regulations on EMF and ELF are defined in the Twenty-sixth Ordinance Implementing the Federal Immission Control Act (Ordinance on Electromagnetic Fields). The recast entered into force on 22th August 2013 and includes the following aspects.

- Regulations are based on recommendations by ICNIRP, particularly those of 2010.
- There are regulations for the entire frequency range from 0 to 300 GHz.
- All high-frequency facilities with more than 10W EIRP, low frequency installations of more than 1000 V and direct current installations of more than 2000 V must comply with the ICNIRP limits.
- There are special rules for low frequency installations of 50 Hz:
Low frequency installations with a frequency of 50 Hz, while they operate at maximum capacity, do not exceed the limit value of 100 μ T for the magnetic field.
- Precautionary measures:
 - When erecting or significantly altering low frequency installations and direct current installations, the possibilities shall be exhausted to minimise the electric magnetic and electromagnetic fields generated by the respective installation according to the state-of-the-art, taking account of circumstances within the sphere of influence. Details shall be regulated by an administrative provision.

The administrative provision is currently being worked out and should come into force in late 2015.

- Low frequency installations for transmission of electricity with a frequency of 50 Hz and a rated voltage of 220 Kilovolt and more which are erected in a new path may not be erected over buildings or parts of buildings intended for the long-term presence of humans.

- English version of the Ordinance on Electromagnetic Fields available under http://www.bmub.bund.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Download_PDF/Luft/26_bimschv_en_bf.pdf

(This translation is solely for informational purpose. The only binding version is the German language version as promulgated in the Federal Law Gazette.)

2. Research Activities

The main focus of the current scientific investigations in Germany is risk management and risk communication. With support of the mobile network operators' voluntary agreement with the Federal Government, which was introduced in 2001 and updated and extended in 2008 and 2012, four research projects on the mentioned topics were initiated

- Differentiated consideration of the use and perception of mobile communications (2014).
<http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0221-2014022811170> (German only)
- Creating a practical hand-out for the assessment of study results for employees of local governments (2014).
<http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0221-2014042311394> (German only)
- Investigating the possibilities of better knowledge transfer and knowledge management (Not finished yet).
- Evaluation of the EMF-Portal and derivation of scientific findings and recommendations for its further design (Not finished yet).

In spite of their contribution to the research fund, the German network operators are not entitled to decide on the selection of the research projects to be conducted nor to participate in the evaluation of the research results.