

## EMF Activities in Iceland 2013

### Policies and legislation

In 2002 a new act on radiation protection included non-ionizing radiation to the tasks of the **Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority** ([www.gr.is](http://www.gr.is)). An English version of the act with later amendments is at: [http://eng.velferdarraduneyti.is/media/acrobat-enskar\\_sidur/Act\\_on\\_Radiation\\_Protection\\_asamended\\_no\\_44\\_2002.pdf](http://eng.velferdarraduneyti.is/media/acrobat-enskar_sidur/Act_on_Radiation_Protection_asamended_no_44_2002.pdf)

Measures for protecting workers at workplaces against the detrimental effects of non-ionizing radiation are however subject to an **Act on Working Environment, and Health and Safety in the Workplace** and taken care of by **The Administration of Occupational Safety and Health in Iceland** ([www.vinnueftirlit.is](http://www.vinnueftirlit.is)).

Both of the above mentioned authorities refer to the ICNIRP Guidelines and no national deviations from these are expected.

It is assumed that ICNIRP Guidelines for workers will be implemented in all of EEA within a few years (Iceland is part of the EEA, The European Economic Area, but not a member of the European Union, EU).

### Public concerns

Public concerns in the field of EMF radiation are mainly in the area of power frequencies (magnetic fields) in the homes and because of antennas carrying senders for mobile phones.

IRSA has addressed these concerns by offering to carry out measurements of EMF radiation against a nominal payment. The payment requested in 2013 is about 125 EUR for up to 8 measurements and a report for the same address.

Measurements have both been performed for individuals, companies and municipalities. Magnetic fields are measured in the homes while electric fields have been measured around telecommunication masts. Large number of such measurements provide IRSA with information of what normal conditions regarding these fields are in Iceland.

Epidemiological research is not likely to lead to any firm conclusions in Iceland, due to the small size of the Icelandic population. IRPA has rather chosen to verify that conditions in Iceland are similar to those in Europe, especially the other Nordic countries.

The main source of magnetic fields in homes are due to stray currents because of grounding and the wiring used by local power companies. Concerns that these were especially high in Iceland were addressed by IRSA by offering free measurements in more than 100 homes and a report published in 2006 on IRSA's website. See (in Icelandic):

[http://www.gr.is/media/skyrslur//GR\\_10\\_06\\_Segulsvið\\_i\\_ibudarahusnaedi.pdf](http://www.gr.is/media/skyrslur//GR_10_06_Segulsvið_i_ibudarahusnaedi.pdf)

### Present activities

IRSA monitors and publishes on its web-site information from reliable sources on health risks due to electromagnetic fields. IRSA has also participated in the preparation of several - Nordic statements addressed to the public on EMF and health risks. One such statement is presently (2013) in preparation taking into account the recent (2011) IARC classification of EMF and cancer risks.

IRSA and the Icelandic Post and telecommunications Authority plan to perform measurements in the second semester of 2013 around those senders that are known to be

most powerful in order to verify that fields are within ICNIRP limits and to help establish guidance for boundaries based on distances rather than on measured fields.

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