

EMF Activities in Iceland 2015

Policies and legislation

In 2002, a new act on radiation protection added non-ionizing radiation to the tasks of the **Icelandic Radiation Safety Authority** (IRSA) (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

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).

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 and become effective in Iceland 1st of July 2016 (Iceland is part of the EEA, The European Economic Area, but not a member of the European Union, EU).

A draft regulation for members of the public is currently being processed and expected to come into effect at the end of year 2015.

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 masts carrying transmitters for mobile phones.

IRSA has addressed these concerns by offering to carry out measurements of EMF radiation against a nominal fee. The fee requested in 2015 is about 125 EUR for up to 8 measurements and a report for the same address.

Measurements have been made for individuals, companies and municipalities. Magnetic fields are measured in the homes while electric fields have been measured around telecommunication masts. A large number of such measurements provides IRSA with information on normal conditions regarding these fields 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 is 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 was published in 2006 on IRSA's website. See (in Icelandic):

http://www.gr.is/media/skyrslur//GR_10_06_Segulsvið_i_íbúðarhúsnæði.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. The last such statement in 2013 took into account the recent (2011) IARC classification of EMF and cancer risks. IRSA and the Icelandic Post and telecommunications Authority have cooperated on measurements since 2013 around those

transmitters that are known to be most powerful in order to verify that fields are within ICNIRP limits.

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