EU activities concerning EMF: health and safety at work

Workshop on EMF and health effects: from science to policy and public awareness
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Dr Zinta Podniece
Health, Safety and Hygiene at Work Unit
Introduction


• Issues – the threshold values could be set considerably higher without causing health problems; respecting the threshold values would hamper the performance of magnetic resonance imagining (MRI)
New directive 2013/35/EU (1)

• Adopted on 26.06.2013; transposition by 1 July 2016
• Concerns exposure to EMF (up to 300 GHz) during work
• Covers all known direct biophysical effects and indirect effects caused by EMF
• Does not cover suggested long-term effects
• If new scientific evidence, possible amendment of the directive
New directive 2013/35/EU (2)

• Recommendations of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) were taken into account and certain threshold values were increased
• Three derogations – magnetic resonance image (MRI), military activities and limited derogations for industrial activities
• Exposure Limit Values (ELVs): health effects ELVs and sensory effects ELVs
• Action Levels (ALs)
New directive 2013/35/EU (3)

- **ICNIRP guidelines** for limiting exposure to electric fields induced by movement of the human body in a static magnetic field by time-varying magnetic fields **below 1 Hz** (published in 2014)

- Insert into the directive 2013/35/EU on electromagnetic fields
Non-binding guide to good practice (1)

• To facilitate implementation of the directive, in particular, conduct risk assessment and management
• Published by 31 December 2015
• Translated in all official EU languages
• Steering by the Working Party on EMF of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work
  [Link](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=148&langId=en&intPageId=683)
• Interested parties, e.g. WHO, European Society of Radiology, Union of the Electricity Industry, European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association (ACEA), ...
Non-binding guide to good practice (2)

Main focus of the guide:

• the **determination of exposure**, taking into account appropriate European or international standards

• guidance on demonstrating compliance in special types of **non-uniform exposure** in specific situations, based on well-established dosimetry

• the description of the **weighted peak method** for the low frequency fields and of the **multifrequency fields summation** for high frequency fields

• the conduct of the risk assessment and, wherever possible, the provision of **simplified techniques**, taking into account in particular the needs of SMEs
Non-binding guide to good practice (3)

• measures aimed at avoiding or reducing risks, including specific prevention measures depending on the level of exposure and the workplace characteristics;
• the establishment of documented working procedures, as well as specific information and training measures for workers exposed to electromagnetic fields during MRI-related activities
• the evaluation of exposures in the frequency range from 100 kHz to 10 MHz, where both thermal and non-thermal effects are to be considered
• the guidance on medical examinations and health surveillance to be provided by the employer
Thank you!

More information on:
EMF directive
EU activities on health and safety at work