

**WHO International EMF Project**  
**12th International Advisory Committee meeting**  
*New Zealand country report 2007*

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**Exposure standards and recommendations**

New Zealand exposure Standards and recommendations are unchanged from previous years. Drafting of a new Radiation Protection Act (which would potentially allow the introduction of regulations to control potentially hazardous sources of non-ionising radiation if needed) continues.

The New Zealand Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has continued its work on the introduction of documents under the Resource Management Act 1991 to set national policies or exposure limits in a planning context. A recently released draft National Policy Statement covering transmission lines proposes that any controls on exposures to electric and magnetic fields should be based on the ICNIRP Guidelines. This draft is currently open for submissions, which will be considered by a Board of Inquiry. A draft National Environmental Standard covering telecommunications facilities is expected to be released very soon. This Standard covers a range of planning issues (height, bulk and location, noise etc), and will also cover exposures to radiofrequency fields. It is anticipated that the provisions on RF fields will pick up the existing recommendations in the MfE/MoH *National guidelines on managing the effects of radiofrequency transmitters* published in 2000. These require compliance with New Zealand Standard 2772.1:1999 *Radiofrequency Fields Part 1: - Maximum exposure levels 3 kHz - 300 GHz*, with confirmation by measurements if exposures are anticipated to exceed 25% of the applicable reference level.

The *Interagency Committee on the Health Effects of Non-Ionising Fields* held two further meetings during the year to provide the New Zealand Director General of Health with scientific and technical advice on any potential health effects from exposures to ELF and RF fields. The results from recent research considered by the Committee have not given cause for concern.

Publication of the WHO EHC on ELF fields, and the framework guiding public health policy in the face of scientific uncertainty, is awaited with interest.

**Public concerns**

There have not been any major items of public concern over the year. Publication of the UK SAGE report drew little interest. There was more interest sparked by reports of a recent UK TV “documentary” on WiFi, but this passed very quickly. In the latter situation, it was very helpful to be able to refer to the WHO fact sheet on base stations and wireless networks as an authoritative source of information.

New Zealand National Radiation Laboratory/Ministry of Health

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