



National Information and Communications Technology Authority

Exposure to EMF Radiation from Mobile Communication Towers

NICTA has been receiving concerns from the general public about the possible health effects from Electro-Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation from Mobile Communication Towers.

As the National ICT regulator, NICTA has an obligation to ensure that accurate information concerning ICT matters is available for the general public. In this regard, NICTA wishes to clarify to the public about EMF radiation from mobile communication towers.

The public must be aware that the real source of EMF radiation is the transmitting antenna, which is mounted at the top of a tower (structure) – **NOT** the tower itself. The transmitting antenna is the main source that determines electromagnetic field distribution in the vicinity of a mobile tower. Power from the antenna(s) is far too low to produce health risks as long as people are kept away from direct contact with the antenna(s).

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) have encouraged the adoption of the harmonised EMF exposure limits based on the Guidelines of the International Commission of Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). NICTA has adopted the ICNIRP Guidelines which have been set as limits for compliance by PNG licensed Mobile Network Operators.

NICTA Inspectors use these guidelines to monitor Radio Frequency (RF) radiating from the mobile base stations to ensure the general public is protected and that Mobile Network Operators do operate within the acceptable EMF exposure limits.

NICTA hereby informs the public that to date studies sanctioned by the WHO including those conducted by the international scientific community have not shown any **conclusive evidence** to indicate EMF exposure at levels normally encountered will cause harmful health effects.

As it is now, no imminent danger exists from EMF which could reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical **harm** from mobile communication towers.

NICTA inspectors will continue to monitor EMF radiation from mobile communication towers to ensure that mobile network operators comply with the acceptable EMF limits.

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