

Legislative Laws Enforced Globally

Government authorities all over the globe are taking serious action on the issue of electromagnetic radiations. Guidelines issued by some agencies and countries are given below:

1. On May 11, 2015, 190 scientists from 39 countries submitted an "**International EMF Scientist Appeal**" to **His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations**. These scientists have collectively published over 2,000 peer-reviewed papers on the biological and health effects of radiations. "We are scientists and engineers, and I am here to tell you - we have created something that is harming us, and it is getting out of control! Putting it bluntly, they are damaging the living cells in our bodies and killing many of us prematurely" says Dr. Martin Blank, heading the committee of Scientists and from the Department of Physiology and Cellular Biophysics at Columbia University, USA.

2. WHO Report

In May 2011, The WHO / International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B), based on an increased risk for glioma, a malignant type of brain cancer associated with wireless phone use.

Link: http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/pr/2011/pdfs/pr208_E.pdf

3. Bioinitiative Report 2012

A new report by the BioInitiative Working Group 2012 says that evidence for risks to health has substantially increased since 2007 from electromagnetic fields (EMF) and wireless technologies (radio frequency – RF- radiation). **The report reviews over 1,800 new scientific studies**. Cell phone users, parents-to-be, young children and pregnant women are at particular risk.

This fifth BioInitiative 2012 Report was prepared by 29 independent scientists from 10 countries, holding medical degrees, PhDs, and MsC, MA or MPHs. The authors concluded: "**There is now much more evidence of risks to health affecting billions of people worldwide.**" The status quo is not acceptable in light of the evidence for harm."

According to the report, everyone is exposed to two types of EMFs: (1) extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields (ELF) from, for example, electrical and electronic appliances and power lines and (2) radio frequency radiation (RF) from wireless devices such as cell phones and cordless phones, cellular antennas and towers, and broadcast transmission towers. Other sources of exposure include, electrical wiring, wireless handheld devices, cell towers, "smart meters", Wi-Fi, wireless laptops, wireless routers, baby monitors and other electronic devices.

Health topics include damage to DNA and genes, effects on memory, learning, behaviour, attention, sleep disruption, cancer and neurological diseases like Alzheimer's disease. There appear to be risks for each of this from continued exposure.

Link: <http://www.bioinitiative.org/>

4. **Rajasthan, India:** Holding mobile towers as a health hazard, the Rajasthan High Court directed telecom service providers operating in the state to remove within two months their towers falling in the vicinity of schools, hospitals and play grounds. The division bench of Chief Justice Arun Mishra and Justice N K Jain Senior held that radiations emitted from mobile phones and mobile base towers are "hazardous to children and patients", as accepted by the inter-ministerial committee of Central Government, and needs relocation from school, colleges, hospitals and play grounds immediately. Link to the Notice: <http://rhccasestatus.raj.nic.in/smsrhcb/rhbcis/jtextfile.asp?ID=CW&nID=8697&yID=2012&doi=11%2F27%2F2012>
5. **Manual of iPhone:** The Manual (under RF Exposure) instructs users to keep the phone 10 mm away from the body. It is mentioned that to reduce exposure to RF energy, use a hands-free option, such as the built-in speakerphone, the supplied headphones, or other similar accessories. Carry iPhone at least 10mm away from your body to ensure exposure levels remain at or below the as-tested levels.
Link: <http://www.apple.com/legal/rfexposure/iphone5,1/en/>
6. **USA:** On May 12, 2015 Berkley adopted the cell phone "Right to Know" ordinance on a unanimous vote. It is the first city in USA to require cell phone retailers to provide those who purchase a new phone an informational fact sheet which informs buyers to read the user manual to learn the cell phone's minimum separation distance from the body.
7. **France:** The New National Legislation and agency for health in France has passed a law in 2015, banning the use of Wi-Fi and all wireless devices in nursery schools. The Federal Public Health Regulations in Belgium has put a total advertising ban on cell phones aimed at children younger than 14.
8. **Canada:** The Canadian Parliament's Standing Committee on Health of the House of Commons issued a report titled "Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Radiation and the Health of Canadians" in June 2015 making recommendations including an awareness campaign on reducing exposure and improved policy measures regarding the marketing of radiation emitting devices to children under the age of 14. Health Canada offers "Practical Advice" on reducing exposure to wireless radiation. Recommendations:
 - (a) Limit the length of cell phone calls.
 - (b) Replace cell phone calls with text, use "hands-free" devices.
 - (c) Encourage children under the age of 18 to limit their cell phone usage.
9. In March 2015, **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** started conducting a multi-disciplinary study to find out adverse effects of Radio Frequency Radiation (RFR). These efforts are definitely appreciable, but can we afford to wait till they publish their findings in a few years from now to take preventive action, when WHO has already classified the radio frequency electromagnetic radiations emitted from mobile devices as 'possibly carcinogenic'?
10. **Israel and Italy:** They are officially recommending schools to reduce children's exposures to wireless radiation. The Israeli Ministry of Health has initiated a major public awareness effort to reduce wireless and electromagnetic radiation exposures to children. In similar action, the Italian State Parliament of South Tyrol voted to allow the application of the precautionary

principle to replace existing wireless networks whenever possible with wired networks or those that emit less radiation. The Israeli Ministry of Health (MoH) recommendations clearly state that "Precautions should be strictly enforced with regard to children, who are more sensitive to developing cancer." Also visit: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/2681508>

11. Belgium: Federal Public Health Regulations published in March 2013 due to Health Concerns for Children.

- Phones designed for children under 7 years old are prohibited from sale.
- Total Advertising Ban on cell phones aimed at children younger than 14.
- Mandatory Radiation SAR levels must be available for consumers at point of sale.
- Warning label on phones: "Think about your health – use your mobile phone moderately, make your calls wearing an earpiece and choose a set with a lower SAR value."
- Recommendations include use of hands-free methods to keep the phone away from the body such as text messaging and not making calls when the signal is weak, such as in elevator/vehicle.

12. Spain: The Parliament of Navarra voted to urge removal of WIFI in schools and to apply the precautionary principle in relation to exposure limits to electromagnetic fields whose boundaries have become "obsolete". The Parliament voted to adopt a resolution which calls to implement the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe resolution 1815 of 2011, which recommends to "review the scientific basis for the standards of exposure to electromagnetic fields" and "set thresholds for levels of preventive long-term exposure in all indoor areas not exceeding 0.6 volts per meter".

13. Australia: In 2013 the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency issued Fact Sheet 14, titled: How to Reduce exposure from mobile phones and other wireless devices. Summary of the fact sheet is as follows:

- Reduce the risk from WiFi devices by "keeping them at a distance, for example placing the wireless router away from where people spend time", and "reducing the amount of time you use them".
- Parents should encourage their children to limit their exposure.

14. Finland: The Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority issued recommendations for children which include: favoring text messages, parents limiting duration and amount of calls, the use of hands free devices, avoiding calls in a low reception area and keeping the phone away from the body. "With children, we have reason to be especially careful, because there is not enough research on children's mobile phone use", according to STUK research director Sisko Salomaa.

15. Israel: The Israeli Ministry Of Education has issued guidelines limiting WiFi and cell phone use in schools.

- Preschool through 2nd grade have banned the use of wireless networks. In third and fourth grade class internet is restricted to 3 hours per week.
- A hard wired direct cable connection is required if the teacher has a computer in the class. Magnetic fields below 4mG are being reduced.

- The Israeli Supreme Court ordered the Israeli government to reply on ceasing Wifi installations

16. Switzerland: The Governing Council of Thurgau Canton 2008 “The Governing Council recommends for schools to forgo the use of wireless networks when the structural makeup of a given school building allows for a wired network.”