

The Swiss regulation and its application

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What is different in Switzerland ?

- **Legal obligation for precautionary limitation (prudent avoidance / ALARA)**
„Irrespective of existing environmental pollution, as a precautionary measure emissions shall be limited as much as technology and operating conditions allow, provided that this is economically acceptable“
- **Far reaching participation of the public in the process of construction permits**

How to implement precaution ?

- **Specify precautionary limitation for general application, not on a case by case basis**
- **Specify precautionary limitation by means of unambiguous, measurable quantities**
- **Concentrate precaution on humans**
- **Concentrate precaution on long term exposure**
→ „places of sensitive use“

Exposure at places of sensitive use can be kept far below ICNIRP limits

Ordinance relating to Protection from Non-Ionising Radiation

- **ICNIRP reference levels to protect from scientifically proven health risks**
- **Installation limit values to substantiate the precautionary limitation (4-6 V/m for mobile telephone base stations with ERP>6 Watts)**
- **Reporting obligations**
- **Land use planning**

Practical application

Construction permit is issued by the local authority

- **Operator submits application for construction permit.**
- **Operator calculates the expected intensity of radiation at some locations**
- **Local authority controls the submission**
- **Concerned citizens can formulate opposition**
- **Local authority decides**

Experience

- **Precautionary limitation was not prohibitive for the construction and extension of three GSM and UMTS networks. About 9000 base stations were evaluated and constructed.**
- **The precautionary regulation limits long term exposure of the population.**
- **The precautionary regulation protects operators from demands for stricter limitation.**
- **Somewhat more base stations may be necessary in urban areas.**

Critique

- **Precautionary limit values undermine the scientifically based exposure limits.**

No

- **Acceptance of base stations is poor despite the precautionary approach.**

Different understanding of precaution

Geneva (june 2004)

