EMF exposure Standards in New Zealand

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Overview

- Development of RF exposure Standard
- Features of the Standard
- Government initiatives
- Recommendations at other frequencies
- Australian Standard
Development of the RF Standard

- Initiated by developments at a major transmission site
- Existing Australian Standard adopted
- Amalgamated with Australian committee for further development
Standards process

- Standards NZ sets up committee representing interest groups
- Draft released for public comment
- Committee vote on final draft
- Attempt to resolve negative votes
- Minimum of 80% of votes must be in favour
NZS 2772.1:1999

- Adopted as New Zealand Standard in 1999
- Covers frequency range 3 kHz – 300 GHz
- Basic Restrictions and Reference Levels taken from ICNIRP 1998
- Additional clauses to aid implementation and verification of compliance
Verification of compliance

- Clauses on how to demonstrate compliance an important requirement for users
- Clauses include
  - Spatial averaging
  - Near/far field measurements
  - Mobile/portable transmitters
Implementation - occupational

- Policy on protection/responsibility
- Reduce exposures through engineering/administrative controls
- Identify areas of high exposures
Implementation - public

Requirements to:

- minimise exposures provided that this can be achieved at modest expense
- Operate in accordance with best industry practice
Legal status of Standard

- Standard has no direct legal status
- Supported by Ministries of Health and for the Environment
- Supported in planning case law
- Incorporated in planning rules by some local authorities
- Would probably be cited as an appropriate occupational safety Standard
Public acceptance

- Public perception that Standards committee loaded in favour of industry
- Leadership from government agencies valuable for local authorities
- Commitment to continuing review of research important
Other frequencies

- Ministry of Health recommends ICNIRP guidelines at other frequencies
- ICNIRP guidance at power frequencies incorporated in some local planning rules
Developments in Australia

- NZS 2772.1:1999 not adopted in Australia
- Objections included:
  - Averaging time
  - Increase in reference levels above 400MHz
- ARPANSA given responsibility to develop a new Standard
Australia: current status

- ARPANSA draft based largely on ICNIRP, plus a precautionary statement
- Public comments reviewed, Standard should be published in late 2001
- ACIF developing Code of Practice for installation/operation of RF infrastructure
Conclusions

- Availability of credible and comprehensive international guidance important for small countries
- Standard must have wide support to be effective