

Human exposure

The EU directive 2004/40/EC describes limits for occupational exposure to EMF. The directive is based on the 1998 ICNIRP guidelines. It was originally due for implementation in the national law of member states by 30th April 2008. This was subsequently delayed to 2012, and has since been further delayed to 2014. Following a period of consultation, a proposal for a revised text for this directive was published in June 2011 (COM(2011) 348).

COM(2011) 348

“Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields) (XXth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC)”, 14th June 2011.

2004/40/EC

“Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29th April 2004 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields)”

Although not a directive, the EU has published a recommendation concerning limits for general public exposure to electromagnetic fields, which is also based on the 1998 ICNIRP guidelines. Harmonised product standards relating to electromagnetic field exposure that are approved for use with RTTE (1999/5/EC) and Low Voltage (2006/95/EC) Directives reference the general public exposure recommendations of 1999/519/EC.

1999/519/EC

“Council Recommendation of 12th July 1999 on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz)”