



World Health
Organization

MODEL LEGISLATION FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS PROTECTION



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PREFACE

The need to develop Model Legislation that enables government agencies to limit the exposure of people to electromagnetic fields (EMF) was expressed by members of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) to WHO's International EMF Project. Such legislation would facilitate the introduction of appropriate measures to protect the public and workers from potential adverse effects of EMF.

To assist countries not having appropriate legislation to protect their population, the International EMF Project has developed a Model Act and a Model Regulation that provide the legal framework to provide this protection. An important aspect of this model legislation is that it uses international standards that limits EMF exposure of people (ICNIRP exposure standards) and international standards that limit the emissions of EMF from devices (IEC and IEEE device emission standards).

This Model Legislation follows the widely accepted practice among lawmakers of setting out an enabling Act that permits the responsible Minister to subsequently issue Regulations, Statutory Orders or Ordinances as appropriate to deal with specific areas of concern. It comprises three elements:

- a Model Act to enable an Authority to initiate regulations and statutes that limit the exposure of its population to electromagnetic fields in the frequency range 0 Hz to 300 GHz
- a Model Regulation which sets out in detail the scope, application, exposure limits and compliance procedures that are permitted under the Act to limit people's exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF)

- an Explanatory Memorandum describing the approach to the Act and its Regulations.

If a national authority wants to develop its own exposure limits, it should use or take into account the WHO Framework for Developing EMF Standards. See: <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/standards/en/>

If a national authority wants to implement measures that will lead to lower exposures, they should use or take into account the WHO Framework for Guiding Policy Options in Areas of Scientific Uncertainty. See: <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/en/>

The International EMF Project thanks sincerely Dr Tom McManus for his tireless effort in the preparation of this model legislation. The assistance of WHO's Department of Ethics, Trade, Human Rights and Health Law, and comments from The Center for Law & the Public's Health at Georgetown University & Johns Hopkins University, USA, are gratefully acknowledged. Special gratitude is also due to those stakeholders who provided comments on the drafts.

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