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Workshop on Thermal Aspects of RF Exposure January 2010 Gaithersburg, MD, USA

International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection



ICNIRP structure

- 14-member Commission (chairman Paolo Vecchia)
- 4 Standing committees:
 - Epidemiology
 - Biology
 - Physics
 - Optics
- 30 Consulting members

Timetable for RF guidelines

- **RF (100 kHz-300 GHz)**
 - 1998 guidelines
 - Blue book (2009, in press,
www.icnirp.de/documents/RFReview.pdf)
 - Statement on RF (2009)
 - *WHO Research recommendations (2010)*
 - *IARC cancer assessment (2011?)*
 - *EHC WHO (2012?)*
 - The ICNIRP Guidelines (2012 ?)

The 2009 statement on RF

www.icnirp.de/documents/StatementEMF.pdf

ICNIRP Statement

ICNIRP STATEMENT ON THE “GUIDELINES FOR LIMITING EXPOSURE TO TIME-VARYING ELECTRIC, MAGNETIC, AND ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS (UP TO 300 GHz)”

“It is the opinion of ICNIRP that the scientific literature published since the 1998 guidelines has provided **no evidence of any adverse effects below the basic restrictions** and **does not necessitate an immediate revision of its guidance** on limiting exposure to RF.”

The 2009 statement on RF (cont.)

- “Some published studies [...] showed that in the frequency ranges of body resonance (ca. 100 MHz) and from 1 to 4 GHz for bodies shorter than 1.3 m in height [...] at the recommended reference level the induced ***SARs could be up to 40% higher than the current basic restriction under worst-case conditions.*** However, this is negligible compared with the large reduction factor of 50.”

The 2009 statement on RF (cont.)

- **Epidemiology:** “The pooled analysis of all national *Interphone* data is not yet published. However, individual national and multinational results published thus far ***do not indicate an elevation of the risk of cancers in the head with cell phones within 10 years of first use.*** More data are needed before conclusions can be drawn for longer durations.”

Basis of local and whole-body exposure limits

- It seems that there has not been no major new findings that could lead to a modification of the WB SAR basic restriction level
- Not very explicit in the 1998 guidelines in terms of local exposure

Future directions

- Update of the scientific database is always ongoing
- The SC Biology is going to start the process of drafting part of the new document
- Outcome from this workshop will help ICNIRP rethink about the use of SAR and the rationale for setting the local exposure limits