

TC95/SC2 Report

R A Tell, Chairman

ATTACHMENT 18

(Terminology, Units of Measurements, and Hazard Communications)

The main activity of SC-2 in recent years has been the development of an IEEE Recommended Practice for RF Safety Programs. This Recommended Practice, issued as IEEE C95.7-2005, presents guidelines and procedures that can form the basis of a radio frequency exposure safety program that provides guidance for controlling hazards associated with radio frequency (RF) sources that operate in the frequency range of 3 kHz to 300 GHz. These guidelines are provided to assist in the development of RF safety programs for the use of RF energy producing devices, equipment, and systems, and to control any potentially hazardous exposure of workers or the public. The document has principally found use in companies that operate RF emitting systems, particularly those that employ large numbers of field technicians that must visit base station facilities like mobile telephone operators.

During the past year, SC-2 has been essentially dormant but the subcommittee is confronted with the need to develop a series of example RF safety programs that could be suitable for use in several different kinds of organizations. These "example programs" would draw upon the recommendations in C95.7 and use the program elements most appropriate to the kind of organization for which the program is being designed. The object of this project is to provide the user with easily followed examples that could be adapted to their own use. While this effort has been considered at several meetings of the SC-2, and some ideas for the kinds of example programs have been discussed, no actual writing tasks have been accomplished.

In an effort to invigorate the subcommittee and get this proposed work started, the concept of a Workshop type of meeting is being considered. This Workshop would be designed to elicit input from various individuals that are actively working in the field and have responsibilities for implementing RF safety programs. These are people who in the past have not typically been involved in our SC-2 activities but who may be able to offer practical insights to how certain aspects of an RF safety program can be made to be most effective.

SC-2 would like to hear comments, pro and con, on the optimum size, make up, and location of such a Workshop meeting. For example, should such a meeting be by invitation only or made open to anyone who is interested in attending? How much international interest might there be in such a Workshop? Etc.

Based on the output of such a Workshop, it should be easier to formulate example RF safety programs by drawing on experiences of the participants in the Workshop. Thus, planning and holding a Workshop could represent the start of our project to create a series of Annexes for C95.7 as example RF safety programs.

Should anyone in attendance at this meeting be interested in joining the efforts of SC-2, please send an e-mail to me at: rtell@radhaz.com. I am especially interested in those who may be from outside the United States who are responsible for RF safety.