



## **STANDARDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE 28 (NONIONIZING RADIATION)**

### **IEEE ICES Subcommittee 2**

#### **Committee on Terminology, Units of Measurement, and Hazard Communications**

#### **Minutes of Committee Meeting, 13 December 2002, Piscataway, NJ**

1. CTO by Chairman, Ric Tell at 0916
2. Introduction of those in attendance
3. Approved the agenda as proposed
4. M/S/C to approve the minutes of 29 June 2001 meeting in Quebec City, PQ. It was noted that a referenced attachment (OSHA letter) was not attached. This letter will be forwarded with the December 2002 minutes.
5. Old Business:
  - a. PAR Status – Revisions to the PAR for the Safety Program Guidelines project were approved this week by the IEEE Standards Board. A name change relating to a designation as C95.7 will be submitted when the document status is stabilized.
  - b. Glossary of RF Safety Terms – This project has been in the discussion stage for some time. The consensus is this is a worthwhile and relevant project. Ron Peterson agreed to collect terms from the SCC28 committee standards and similar documents. Several of those attending volunteered to provide data. A PAR request will be generated when there is some substantive progress on the document.
  - c. RF Safety Program Guidance Document (Recommended Practice) – The current draft of the guideline was generated by Art Varanelli and Don Haes. Art Varanelli summarized the draft document. The discussion centered on category definitions and the program detail aspects (tables 1 and 2). An ad hoc group will integrate the discussion content into the current wording and propose a revised draft to be circulated to the committee membership.
6. New Business – There were no items of new business



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7. Time and Place of Next Meeting – The next meeting of SC2 is tentatively planned for June of 2003 immediately prior to the Bioelectromagnetics Society in Hawaii (in conjunction with the meeting of the SCC28 parent committee).
8. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1207.

Submitted by:

Dave Baron  
Secretary, ICES SC2, Committee on Terminology,  
Units of Measurement, and Hazard Communications

### **Action Items:**

**Collect terms and definitions for Glossary – Ron Peterson**

**Provide input to terms and definitions list – Art Varanelli – equipment terms, John Osepchuk – international standards terms, Rolf Bodemann – EC and German Standards activities**



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### OSHA letter

U.S. Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Reply to the Attention of: DCP/HCA/CD

FEB 22 2002

Mr. Richard A. Tell  
Richard A. Tell Associates, Inc.  
Ringstar Road, Suite 3  
Las Vegas, NV 89030

Dear Mr. Tell:

Thank you for your August 24 letter to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) Directorate of Compliance Programs. Some background history, a summarization of your recommendation, and our response are listed below.

**Background:** The radio-frequency radiation hazard warning symbol described in 29 CFR 1910.97, Nonionizing Radiation, was adopted from the 1966 American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard. In 1982, ANSI published a new standard, IEEE C95.2-1982, which specified a new design for non-ionizing radiation warning signs. In 1991, OSHA wrote a letter of interpretation stating that "an employer who displays the ANSI nonionizing radiation warning sign to warn employees about specific radio frequency radiation hazards is considered not to be in violation of 1910.97."

**Recommendation:** *As Chairman of Subcommittee 2 of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Committee on Electromagnetic Safety (ICES), I believe that OSHA should recognize and accept the non-ionizing radiation symbol published by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) in IEEE Std. C95.2-1999 as a substitute for the warning symbol required at 29 CFR 1910.97.*

**Reply:** The 1999 ANSI non-ionizing radiation warning symbol is presently being used and is accepted by general industry. This warning symbol provides equal or greater employee protection when compared to the non-ionizing radiation symbol required by 29 CFR 1910.97. Just as OSHA determined in 1991 that any employer that uses the (1982) IEEE C94.2-1982 version of the warning sign provided equal or greater employee protection if, an employer warns employees about radio frequency radiation hazards by displaying a non-ionizing radiation warning symbol meeting the newest ANSI standard, IEEE Std. C95.2-1999, will be considered de minimis and will not be violation of 29 CFR 1910.97.



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Thank you for your interest in occupational safety and health. We hope you find this information helpful. OSHA requirements are set by statute, standards and regulations. Our interpretation letters explain these requirements and how they apply to particular circumstances, but they cannot create additional employer obligations. This letter constitutes OSHA's interpretation of the requirements discussed. Our enforcement guidance may be affected by changes to OSHA rules. Also, from time to time we update our guidance in response to new information. To keep apprised of such developments, you can consult the OSHA website at <http://www.osha.gov>. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Health Compliance Assistance at (202) 693-2190.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard E. Fairfax".

Richard E. Fairfax, Director  
Directorate of Compliance Programs