

# New Guidelines Released by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection

## What is it?

The International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) has released new guidelines for the protection of humans exposed to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields.

These guidelines cover the upcoming 5G technologies, as well as AM and DAB radio, WiFi, Bluetooth and the currently used 3G/4G mobile phones.

## What does it mean for us?

Now, after an additional 20 years of research, ICNIRP has confirmed that the current limits applicable to the frequencies used by mobile communications remain protective of all people – including children, adolescents and pregnant women – against all established health risks. Additionally, they now have some detailed enhancements to better address new RF applications which may emerge in the near future.

## Who is ICNIRP?

ICNIRP is an independent Commission, formally recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO), offering science-based advice and guidance on the health and environmental effects of electromagnetic fields including radio signals, such as those used for mobile communications.

ICNIRP members are not employed by industry and funding derives from national and international public institutions.

## Differences between 1998 and 2020 guidelines

ICNIRP first published its international guidelines for protection against harmful effects of radiofrequency fields in 1998. The main changes in the 2020 guidelines are particularly relevant to 5G technologies which operate at frequencies above 6 GHz (and will be deployed in the near future).

An ICNIRP spokesman said, “When we revised the guideline, we looked at the adequacy of the ones we published in 1998. We found the previous ones were conservative in most cases and they’d still provide adequate protection for current technologies. However, the new guidelines provide better and more detailed exposure guidance in particular for the higher frequency range, above 6 GHz, which is of importance to 5G and future technologies using these higher frequencies. The most important thing for people to remember is that 5G technologies will not be able to cause harm when these new guidelines are adhered to.”

The full guidelines are published in the scientific journal Health Physics – ICNIRP. Guidelines for limiting exposure to electromagnetic fields (100 kHz to 300 GHz) can be accessed at [ICNIRP.org](https://www.icnirp.org).

## Where can I get more information on 5G?

Australian Communications  
and Media Authority (ACMA)  
1300 850 115  
[www.acma.gov.au/](http://www.acma.gov.au/)

Australian Radiation Protection and  
Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)  
(03) 9433 2211  
[www.arpansa.gov.au](http://www.arpansa.gov.au)

EMF Explained web site  
[www.emfexplained.info](http://www.emfexplained.info)

Mobile Nation 2019 - the 5G  
future report  
<https://amta.org.au/new-mobilenation-report-the-5g-future/>

Mobile Carriers Forum  
<http://amta.org.au/mcf>