

18 April 2008

Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) exposure and energy saving lamps

Today, our society uses a huge variety of electrical equipment to make life more comfortable. However, every piece of electrical or electronic equipment creates an electromagnetic field (EMF) in the close surrounding area of the equipment within which it operates. This also applies to electric lamps.

EMF emitted by energy saving lamps are well within safety limits. The member companies of the European Lamp Companies Federation (ELC) are committed to, and responsible for, ensuring that high quality and safety standards of their products are met. Energy saving lamps are safe.

Are there safety limits for exposure to EMF?

Yes. Safety limits have been established by the **International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP)**¹ based on extensive scientific knowledge. These limits have been endorsed by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**² and the **International Radiation Protection Agency (IRPA)**³.

The limits include substantial safety margins to protect both the general public (e.g. children & elderly people) and people who may be exposed during their work.

In Europe, the ICNIRP safety limits have also been adopted into European legislation on EMF⁴. European standards therefore exist and can be used to demonstrate the compliance of products such as energy saving lamps with the EMF requirements.

Are energy saving lamps within the limits?

Yes. The European EMF Recommendation sets an exposure limit for the general public to all products, including lighting equipment. The energy saving lamps manufactured and put on the market by ELC members comply with all legal requirements. This means that they do not exceed the maximum exposure limits and have no effect on health. Energy saving lamps are therefore safe to use.

¹ www.icnirp.org

² www.who.int/peh-emf

³ www.irpa.net

⁴ Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC on the limitation of exposure of the general public http://eur-ex.europa.eu/pri/en/oj/dat/1999/l_199/l_19919990730en00590070.pdf. See also the European Commission Public Health page at www.europa.eu.int/comm/health/, go through 'health & environment' to 'electromagnetic fields'