



SAR Compliance

Recently there have been media reports of a voluntary product recall from a handset manufacturer relating to concerns about compliance with standards specifying Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) limits¹.

SAR is a measure of the amount of radio frequency (RF) energy absorbed by the body when using a mobile phone. National and international standards have been established to specify the maximum SAR that is applicable for RF devices such as mobile phones.

The SAR limits themselves are set at levels well below the threshold where harmful effects are known to occur. Health Canada in a statement issued in relation to the recall provided the following advice for consumers:

“Health Canada is of the opinion, based on the review of test results and its assessment of current science, that the past and current use ... should not pose immediate or long-term health concerns. While test results exceeded the exposure limits of Safety Code 6, they were well below the threshold at which harmful health effects might occur.”²

The World Health Organization also provides the following advice for consumers:

“...the overall evidence available to date does not suggest that the use of mobile phones has any detrimental effect on human health.”³

The mobile phone industry takes all questions regarding the safety of mobile phones seriously and the MMF was established to support ongoing scientific research in this area as well as to provide access to authoritative advice to consumers concerned by these issues. More information on SAR and related issues is available from the MMF’s website at www.mmfai.org

January 2009

¹ http://ca.lge.com/en/about/press_release/detail/PRE%7CMENU_6011_1.jhtml

² http://209.217.71.106/PR/recall-retrait-e.jsp?re_id=634

³ <http://www.who.int/peh-emf/about/WhatisEMF/en/index3.html>