

12. MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE RF EXPOSURE

12.1. FCC RULES

§1.1310 The criteria listed in Table 1 shall be used to evaluate the environmental impact of human exposure to radio-frequency (RF) radiation as specified in §1.1307(b), except in the case of portable devices which shall be evaluated according to the provisions of §2.1093 of this chapter.

TABLE 1—LIMITS FOR MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE EXPOSURE (MPE)

Frequency range (MHz)	Electric field strength (V/m)	Magnetic field strength (A/m)	Power density (mW/cm ²)	Averaging time (minutes)
(A) Limits for Occupational/Controlled Exposures				
0.3–3.0	614	1.63	*(100)	6
3.0–30	1842/f	4.89/f	*(900/f ²)	6
30–300	61.4	0.163	1.0	6
300–1500 .....	.....	.....	f/300	6
1500–100,000 .....	.....	.....	5	6
(B) Limits for General Population/Uncontrolled Exposure				
0.3–1.34	614	1.63	*(100)	30
1.34–30	824/f	2.19/f	*(180/f ²)	30

TABLE 1—LIMITS FOR MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE EXPOSURE (MPE)—Continued

Frequency range (MHz)	Electric field strength (V/m)	Magnetic field strength (A/m)	Power density (mW/cm ²)	Averaging time (minutes)
30–300	27.5	0.073	0.2	30
300–1500 .....	.....	.....	f/1500	30
1500–100,000 .....	.....	.....	1.0	30

f = frequency in MHz

* = Plane-wave equivalent power density

NOTE 1 TO TABLE 1: Occupational/controlled limits apply in situations in which persons are exposed as a consequence of their employment provided those persons are fully aware of the potential for exposure and can exercise control over their exposure. Limits for occupational/controlled exposure also apply in situations when an individual is transient through a location where occupational/controlled limits apply provided he or she is made aware of the potential for exposure.

NOTE 2 TO TABLE 1: General population/uncontrolled exposures apply in situations in which the general public may be exposed, or in which persons that are exposed as a consequence of their employment may not be fully aware of the potential for exposure or can not exercise control over their exposure.

12.2. IC RULES

IC Safety Code 6, Section 2.2.1 (a) A person other than an RF and microwave exposed worker shall not be exposed to electromagnetic radiation in a frequency band listed in Column 1 of Table 5, if the field strength exceeds the value given in Column 2 or 3 of Table 5, when averaged spatially and over time, or if the power density exceeds the value given in Column 4 of Table 5, when averaged spatially and over time.

Table 5
Exposure Limits for Persons Not Classed As RF and Microwave Exposed Workers (Including the General Public)

1 Frequency (MHz)	2 Electric Field Strength; rms (V/m)	3 Magnetic Field Strength; rms (A/m)	4 Power Density (W/m ²)	5 Averaging Time (min)
0.003–1	280	2.19		6
1–10	280/ <i>f</i>	2.19/ <i>f</i>		6
10–30	28	2.19/ <i>f</i>		6
30–300	28	0.073	2*	6
300–1 500	1.585 <i>f</i> ^{0.5}	0.0042 <i>f</i> ^{0.5}	<i>f</i> /150	6
1 500–15 000	61.4	0.163	10	6
15 000–150 000	61.4	0.163	10	616 000 / <i>f</i> ^{1.2}
150 000–300 000	0.158 <i>f</i> ^{0.5}	4.21 x 10 ⁻⁴ <i>f</i> ^{0.5}	6.67 x 10 ⁻⁵ <i>f</i>	616 000 / <i>f</i> ^{1.2}

* Power density limit is applicable at frequencies greater than 100 MHz.

- Notes:**
1. Frequency, *f*, is in MHz.
 2. A power density of 10 W/m² is equivalent to 1 mW/cm².
 3. A magnetic field strength of 1 A/m corresponds to 1.257 microtesla (μT) or 12.57 milligauss (mG).

12.3. EQUATIONS

POWER DENSITY

Power density is given by:

$$S = \text{EIRP} / (4 * \text{Pi} * \text{D}^2)$$

Where

S = Power density in mW/cm²
EIRP = Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power in mW
D = Separation distance in cm

Power density in units of mW/cm² is converted to units of W/m² by multiplying by 10.

DISTANCE

Distance is given by:

$$D = \text{SQRT} (\text{EIRP} / (4 * \text{Pi} * S))$$

Where

D = Separation distance in cm
EIRP = Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power in mW
S = Power density in mW/cm²

SOURCE-BASED DUTY CYCLE

Where applicable (for example, multi-slot cell phone applications) a duty cycle factor may be applied.

$$\text{Source-based time-averaged EIRP} = (\text{DC} / 100) * \text{EIRP}$$

Where

DC = Duty Cycle in %, as applicable
EIRP = Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power in W

MIMO AND COLOCATED TRANSMITTERS (IDENTICAL LIMIT FOR ALL TRANSMITTERS)

For multiple chain devices, and colocated transmitters operating simultaneously in frequency bands where the limit is identical, the total power density is calculated using the total EIRP obtained by summing the EIRP (in linear units) of each transmitter.

$$\text{Total EIRP} = (\text{EIRP1}) + (\text{EIRP2}) + \dots + (\text{EIRPn})$$

where

EIRPx = Source-based time-averaged EIRP of chain x or transmitter x

The total EIRP is then used to calculate the Power Density or the Distance as applicable.

MIMO AND COLOCATED TRANSMITTERS

For multiple colocated transmitters operating simultaneously in frequency bands where different limits apply:

The Power Density at the specified separation distance is calculated for each transmitter chain or transmitter.

The fraction of the exposure limit is calculated for each chain or transmitter as (Power Density of chain or transmitter) / (Limit applicable to that chain or transmitter).

The fractions are summed.

Compliance is established if the sum of the fractions is less than or equal to one.

12.4. LIMITS AND IC EXEMPTION

VARIABLE LIMITS

For mobile radio equipment operating in the cellular phone band, the lowest power density limit is calculated using the lowest frequency:

$$824 \text{ MHz} / 1500 = 0.55 \text{ mW/cm}^2 \text{ (FCC)}$$

$$824 \text{ MHz} / 150 = 5.5 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ (IC)}.$$

FIXED LIMITS

For operation in the PCS band, the 2.4 GHz band and the 5 GHz bands:

From FCC §1.1310 Table 1 (B), the maximum value of $S = 1.0 \text{ mW/cm}^2$

From IC Safety Code 6, Section 2.2 Table 5 Column 4, $S = 10 \text{ W/m}^2$

INDUSTRY CANADA EXEMPTION

RSS-102 Clause 2.5.2 RF exposure evaluation is required if the separation distance between the user and the device's radiating element is greater than 20 cm, except when the device operates as follows:

- below 1.5 GHz and the maximum e.i.r.p. of the device is equal to or less than 2.5 W;
- at or above 1.5 GHz and the maximum e.i.r.p. of the device is equal to or less than 5 W.

12.5. RF EXPOSURE RESULTS

In the table(s) below, Power and Gain are entered in units of dBm and dBi respectively and conversions to linear forms are used for the calculations.

Calculation for the Accessory Radio

Single Chain and non-colocated transmitters								
Band	Mode	Separatio Distance (cm)	Output Power (dBm)	Antenna Gain (dBi)	Duty Cycle (%)	EIRP (mW)	FCC Power Density (mW/cm ²)	IC Density (W/m ²)
2.4 GHz	WLAN	20	11.50	2.20	100.0	23.4	0.005	0.05
5 GHz	WLAN	20	11.50	3.14	100.0	29.1	0.006	0.06

Worst Case calculation of both Radios

Multiple chain or colocated transmitters									
Band	Mode	Chain for MIMO	Separatio Distance (cm)	Output Power (dBm)	Antenna Gain (dBi)	Duty Cycle (%)	EIRP (mW)	FCC Power Density (mW/cm ²)	IC Density (W/m ²)
5 GHz	Accessory WLAN	1		11.50	3.14	100.0	29.1		
2.4 GHz	Network WLAN	2		17.50	3.38	100.0	122.5		
2.4 GHz	Network WLAN	3		17.50	4.61	100.0	162.6		
Combined			20				331.2	0.066	0.66

Note: antenna gains in the tables above are worst-case gains for individual chains

The device operates above 1.5 GHz with a maximum EIRP less than or equal to 5 Watts as a mobile device with a minimum separation distance of 20 cm, therefore it is exempt from routine RF Exposure Evaluation under RSS-102.