

11. MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE EXPOSURE

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.

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).

CALCULATIONS

Given

$$E = \sqrt{(30 * P * G) / d}$$

and

$$S = E^2 / 3770$$

where

E = Field Strength in Volts/meter

P = Power in Watts

G = Numeric antenna gain

d = Distance in meters

S = Power Density in milliwatts/square centimeter

Combining equations, rearranging the terms to express the distance as a function of the remaining variables, changing to units of Power to mW and Distance to cm, and substituting the logarithmic form of power and gain yields:

$$d = 0.282 * 10^{((P + G) / 20)} / \sqrt{S}$$

where

d = MPE distance in cm

P = Power in dBm

G = Antenna Gain in dBi

S = Power Density Limit in mW/cm²

Rearranging terms to calculate the power density at a specific distance yields

$$S = 0.0795 * 10^{((P + G) / 10)} / (d^2)$$

The power density in units of mW/cm² is converted to units of W/m² by multiplying by a factor of 10.

LIMITS

From FCC §1.1310 Table 1 (B), the maximum value of S = 1.0 mW/cm²

From IC Safety Code 6, Section 2.2 Table 5 Column 4, S = 10 W/m²

RESULTS

(MPE distance equals 20 cm)

Mode	Band	MPE Distance (cm)	Output Power (dBm)	Antenna Gain (dBi)	FCC Power Density (mW/cm ²)	IC Power Density (W/m ²)
802.11a	5.2 GHz	20.0	18.09	9.77	0.12	1.21
802.11n H20	5.2 GHz	20.0	21.93	5.00	0.10	0.98
802.11n H40	5.2 GHz	20.0	22.01	5.00	0.10	1.00

Mode	Band	MPE Distance (cm)	Output Power (dBm)	Antenna Gain (dBi)	FCC Power Density (mW/cm ²)	IC Power Density (W/m ²)
802.11a	5.6 GHz	20.0	16.87	9.77	0.09	0.92
802.11n H20	5.6 GHz	20.0	20.32	5.00	0.07	0.68
802.11n H40	5.6 GHz	20.0	22.80	5.00	0.12	1.20

The power level used for MPE calculations is the sum of the power of all transmitter chains. Since the antennas are identical for each transmitter this is equivalent to summing the power density of all transmitters. All three antennas are assumed to be at the same location to give a worst-case estimate of the total power density at a distance of 20 cm from this point. For 802.11abg transmissions the effective legacy mode antenna gain is used (this effective gain assumes that the legacy signals are coherent thus add in voltage). For 802.11n transmissions the signals are not coherent therefore they add in power and the normal antenna gain is applicable.