



RADIO WAVES AND HEALTH: SMART METERS

In the Networked Society, everything that could benefit from being connected will be connected. An example of this is connected Smart Meters that help utilities optimize the operation of their grids and enable consumers to take control of their energy, water or gas consumption. Smart Meters often use radio waves to connect to a wireless network and thereby communicate with the utility company. Like mobile phones and other wireless devices, Smart Meters comply with standards and regulations for radio wave exposure.

Smart Meters emit low-power radio waves

A Smart Meter that is connected to a wireless network will, by necessity, be equipped with a radio transmitter and an antenna which emits low-power radio waves (also called radiofrequency fields or RF energy). Smart Meters communicate only sporadically with the network and radio waves are only emitted during communication.

Smart Meters comply with radio frequency exposure limits

As with mobile phones and other radio devices, the radio wave exposure from Smart Meters must comply with limits established by independent expert organizations. The limits are based on many years of research and include large safety margins. The World Health Organization (WHO), among others, recommends exposure limits which are adopted by national authorities.

Radio wave exposure levels from Smart Meters are much lower than the limits

The level of radio wave exposure is drastically reduced with increasing distance from a Smart Meter. Due to this and to the fact that the power is low and the devices only transmit sporadically, the typical exposure to an individual from a Smart Meter is just a small fraction of the relevant exposure limits.

Smart Meters do not pose any health risks

The World Health Organization and several other expert groups and health agencies have concluded that there are no established health effects from radio waves emitted by radio equipment that comply with international limits on radio wave exposure. Health Canada has issued a fact sheet about Smart Meters which states that “Health Canada has concluded that exposure to RF energy from smart meters does not pose a public health risk.”



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