

## Mobile Phone Safety



Mobile or cellular phones have become an integral part of modern society helping to revolutionise how we conduct our personal and business lives. Indeed, in some parts of the world, they are the most reliable or only phones available. To individuals and the community they provide personal, business and safety benefits allowing people to keep in touch while supporting freedom of movement. However, questions have been asked about the safety of mobile communications.

### **The GSMA Position**

The GSMA is guided by independent national and international expert reviews of existing research regarding health matters associated with the radio signals used by mobile phone systems. On this basis, the GSMA believes that there is no convincing scientific evidence of a health risk associated with the proper use of mobile phones or living near a base station.

Some reviews have identified scientific questions where more research is needed. The GSMA welcomes independent, high quality and objective research and is supporting such research as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to address existing scientific uncertainties.

### **National and International Standards**

National and international standards bodies have developed guidelines that apply to mobile phones and base stations. GSM mobile phones and their base stations are designed to operate in compliance with these guidelines. For country-specific information on applicable standards the local telecommunications regulator should be contacted.

The WHO has said that the international guidelines

*'...are based on a careful analysis of all scientific literature (both thermal and non-thermal effects) and offer protection against all identified hazards of RF [radiofrequency] energy with large safety margins.'*



The GSMA supports the development of scientifically based safety standards and encourages international harmonisation.

#### **Siting of Base Stations**

Much of the community debate has been about the siting of base stations and is driven by both safety and aesthetic concerns. The GSMA encourages responsible network development that respects the concerns and proposals of communities and is sympathetic to the local environment.

#### **Responsible Use of Phones**

There are situations such as while driving or when interference to medical equipment is possible where particular care should be taken in the use of mobile phones. The GSMA encourages customers to use their phones responsibly and comply with safety instructions issued by competent local regulatory bodies.

#### **GSMA Action**

The GSMA has initiated a program to promote communications with national governments and the WHO as guardians of public health and technical standard setting bodies as assessors of scientific knowledge. Through this dialogue, the GSMA will seek to formulate responsible policies on key issues including the funding and prioritising of scientific research to help to address existing scientific uncertainties about mobile phone technology and human health.



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**Where to go for more information**

GSMA: <http://www.gsmworld.com/health>