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PLATFORM PRESENTATION

Electromagnetic Fields Measurements In Portuguese Schools

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monIT (<http://monit.it.pt>) is a Portuguese project on risk communication aiming at providing public information on exposure to electromagnetic fields from mobile communication systems. This objective is accomplished through different means, namely, talks in secondary schools and the assessment of exposure compliance with the reference levels near mobile communications base station antennas in these locations. The aim of this paper is to quantify the results of electromagnetic field measurements made in schools, some during a collaboration with the Ministry of Education, while others due to the direct contact with schools. Until September 2010, 152 schools all over the Portuguese territory were measured, totalising 571 measurement points. Measurements were performed in locations where electromagnetic field levels are higher, and all obtained results were compliant with the exposure thresholds. The influence of several parameters on these results was also analysed, namely, in terms of the distance from the measurement point to the base stations, the number of surrounding base stations, existence of line of sight to the base station, and the presence of other emission sources. Results show that more than 85% of the measured points are at least 1 000 times below the strictest reference level. The mean value resulting from all measured points is about 1 300 times below the exposure threshold, while the highest measured point is 30 times below this value.