

DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

POLICY

It is ICNIRP's aim to provide guidance and recommendations on protection from non-ionizing radiation exposure based on thorough professional evaluation of the published scientific literature. To achieve this goal, ICNIRP relies on the scientific knowledge and judgment of independent experts. For ICNIRP it is imperative to avoid that personal interests of its members affect the independence of ICNIRP's guidance. In this view, the ICNIRP and SEG members are asked to declare any personal interests in relation to the activities of ICNIRP.

The declaration of interests is to be completed at the time of acceptance of nomination for an election updated after election, annually, and each time a change of personal interest occurs. The declarations of personal interests are requested from all:

- candidates to an ICNIRP position;
- ICNIRP Commission members;
- ICNIRP Scientific Expert Group members.

Upon completion and signature, the declaration is to be sent electronically to Dr. Gunde Ziegelberger, ICNIRP Scientific Secretary at g.ziegelberger@icnirp.org.

Declarations of all elected members of ICNIRP and its Scientific Expert Group will be posted in due course on the ICNIRP website. All publications of ICNIRP shall contain an acknowledgement with regard to the online availability of the declaration of personal interests.

The declarations are evaluated by the Commission. If there is any conflict of interest, the Commission decides in accordance with the ICNIRP provisions entailed in the Charter and Statutes (see below), about the action required. The general principle of ICNIRP's approach is that neither the personal, nor the professional life, of its members should depend on NIR-relevant industries or any other NIR interest groups. It is recognized that scientific expertise implies a wide range of professional and academic experiences and activities, called personal interests, which however do not per se automatically lead to a conflict. The evaluation of personal integrity is very complex and might never be achievable in a perfect way. It is the duty of the ICNIRP Commission to carefully consider and decide if the declared interests potentially constitute a conflict of interest.

As per the ICNIRP Statutes, "no member of the Commission shall hold a position of employment that in the opinion of the Commission will compromise its scientific independence. (...) When a change occurs in a member's employment which, in the opinion of the Commission members, may compromise the Commission's scientific independence, the Commission shall decide whether this member can continue to serve". The Commission decision shall be taken by a simple majority vote, either by a formal letter ballot, at a special commission meeting called for that purpose, or at its Annual General Meeting (ICNIRP Statutes, §6(2)).

