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NIOSH/WHO/ILO Draft Document on Occupational Exposure to EMF

Emilie van Deventer

World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

vandeventere@who.int

While there is an abundance of information available on EMF exposures, most of that information deals with the general environmental considerations of exposure to the public. To address occupational sources and worker exposures to EMFs, an informational booklet is being developed by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In the United States, NIOSH is the national research institute that focuses on workplace safety and health hazards and provides information to workers and managers related to various occupational health issues. The WHO International EMF Project has produced a number of documents to improve the information dealing with EMFs that is freely accessible to the public. In turn, the ILO Programme on Safety and Health at Work and the Environment (SafeWork) has a mandate to protect and promote workers' health, safety and well-being.

The objective of this document is to provide information and guidance for appropriate occupational applications and interventions and to develop strategies to prevent occupational harm resulting from such exposures. The booklet deals with occupational exposures to electromagnetic fields, including those fields associated with the delivery and use of electricity, electrical equipment, and devices that emit radio frequency electromagnetic radiation. It is intended to provide practical advice to workers, managers, industrial hygienists and occupational safety and health and other professionals who are not experts in EMF exposure assessment, but require more than a general understanding of workplace EMF exposures in order to carry out the evaluation, management and control of such exposures in all types of workplace environments.

This presentation will review the major content sections of the draft booklet and discuss options for gathering feedback from experts in occupational EMF exposures that will improve the final product.