



COAI in Discussion with the Central Govt. on Mobile Tower Guidelines

Kolkata, 18 July 2013: Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the industry body of the GSM mobile service provider in India, is in discussion with the recent efforts by Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India to formulate a national guideline for installation and execution of telecom towers across the country. The association said that it is a much required step in the right direction for addressing issues relating to smooth installation and operation of the telecom towers and removal of fears of safety hazards of emissions from the towers.

“ We are working closely with the DoT to ensure that all safety norms are made universal and fears of public about the telecom towers are removed”, said Mr Rajan S Mathews , Director General , COAI. The finalisation of the guidelines for installation of telecom towers and establishment of a portal making all emissions levels of all antennae transparent will remove all myths about the safety of the towers and its emissions, Mr Mathews pointed out. As a measure to educate the people, COAI has undertaken road-show programs across various cities of the country to highlight the steps undertaken by the industry and government in removing all fears around safety of these towers. “Indian mobile industry’s electromagnetic frequency emissions (EMF) are one of lowest in the world and industry is determined to ensure the safety norms are adhered to by the individual companies religiously”, Mr Mathews added.

India’s mobile industry complies and conforms to norms mandated by the Department of Telecom (DoT) which lowered the norms by 90%, mandated by international regulatory bodies such as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). ICNIRP guidelines are regarded as the most credible and are followed by almost all the countries across the world. It should also be noted that the DoT made such a reduction of the ICNIRP levels entirely as a measure of abundant precaution as there is no conclusive scientific evidence till date which links EMF emissions from mobile towers to health hazards.

It is also pertinent to note that the emission safety norms set by the Govt. of India have been determined keeping in mind all the possible groups that may be affected and has enough safety margins to provide safeguards to everyone – from pregnant women, to children, senior citizens, etc, in all locations. Hence there is no further requirement to have separate safety norms for mobile tower locations in residential, school or hospital areas

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All telecom operators in India, in accordance with their license conditions, are in compliance with the safety standards and guidelines for EMF laid down by the DoT. Indian Mobile Service Providers undergo stringent measurements and audits and provide certificates regarding compliance with these standards for each Base Station antennae. Additionally, regular and stringent audits are done by the Government's TERM cells to ensure that the towers are compliant with these standards.

About COAI:

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) was constituted in 1995 as a registered, non-profit, non-governmental society dedicated to the advancement of communication, particularly modern communication through Cellular Mobile Telephone Services. With a vision to establish and sustain a world-class cellular infrastructure and facilitate affordable mobile communication services in India, COAI's main objectives are to protect the common & collective interests of its members. (<http://www.coai.in/>).

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