

Radio Advisory Board of Canada
Conseil consultatif canadien de la radio

Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee Annual Report

Three committee meetings were held on February 11, 1999, June 11, 1999 and September 10, 1999 with good participation from various industry sectors covering diverse EMC topics as highlighted below.



Revision of Safety Code 6

Revised Safety Code 6 was published by Health Canada having consulted and given RABC draft document earlier. It is considered scientifically unjustified to continue imposing SAR (Specific Absorption Rate) limits for the eye based on limited information as available, and is so reflected in the current version of Safety Code 6. The Health Canada document does not describe techniques for product performance evaluation. Separate documents (e.g. RSS-102) were developed by Industry Canada with input from the industry for compliance and exposure evaluation.

Power-line EMC

One of the CEA members expressed the concern that there was the implementation problem with ICES-004 with the requirement to protect not only AM broadcasting but also all radiocommunication services from interference caused by transmission and distribution lines. The Committee was looking for a CEA position before considering the possibility of revising ICES-004.

The Committee was made aware of some development, currently more in Europe, in high speed data transmission over power lines. It was noted that there were concerns in the UK about interference problem.

Industry Canada would circulate the 1st draft of ICES-006 that could address some of the protection requirements, initially more related to applications of monitoring and automation in home environment as of interest to CABA (Continental Automated Building Association).

Wireless EMC with Medical Devices

There was some discussion on the US experience of DTV interfering with medical telemetry systems. The subject was then drawn to the attention of the Executive Committee and Broadcasting Committee. Actions will be taken by Health Canada to alert concerned medical community of such incompatibility problem.

There were presentations by Medical Device Bureau of Health Canada and McGill EMC Research Group with updates on some Canadian research work and findings on the use of wireless devices in hospital environment, interaction of some digital phones with cardiac pacemakers and the risk of metal detector interfering with implanted pacemakers.

Aviation EMC

NAV CANADA raised the subject of potential interference from analog and digital broadcast TV stations to the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) with the proposal to modify spurious emission limits in the 1559-1610 MHz band for protection of GNSS operation. It was referred to the Broadcasting Committee for further study.

Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)

Having briefed the Committee on MRA developments including the need for a new process and procedures for the accreditation and designation of test facilities, Industry Canada gazetted SMSE-008-99. EMC members were asked to review the document. No comments were received, hence no RABC response.

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