

Non-
Protection

ICNIRP

adopted by the
General Assembly of
the

International Radiation Protection Association

- WP

Montreal, 20 May 1992

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CHARTER ICNIRP

Preamble

This charter defines the work of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection < ICNIRP > (hereafter called "The Commission") and governs the relationship between the Commission and the International Radiation Protection Association < IRPA > .

This charter was approved by the IRPA General Assembly on 20 May 1992, Montreal (Canada).

Incorporation of ICNIRP shall be in accordance with the charter and shall be sought as a non-profit scientific body, as soon as possible after approval of the Charter by IRPA.

Definitions

Non-Ionizing Radiations (NIR) include:

- (i) electromagnetic radiations and fields having wavelengths of 100 nanometres or greater, or frequencies from 0 - 3 PHz (0 - 3.11)¹⁵ Hz) and include static electric and magnetic fields, extremely low frequency fields, radiofrequency fields (including microwaves), infrared, visible and ultraviolet radiation,
- (ii) acoustic fields with frequencies above 20 kHz (ultrasound) and with frequencies below 20 Hz (infrasound).

Radiation protection is a general term which includes all appropriate measures to protect the health of workers, patients, general public, and the environment from potentially adverse effects of exposure to NIR.

Objectives

The Commission is established for the purpose of advancing Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection for the benefit of people and the environment and in particular to provide guidance and recommendations on protection from NIR exposure.

The Commission shall continue the work previously conducted by the International Non-Ionizing Radiation Committee (INIRC) of IRPA and maintain continuity from INIRC to the Commission.

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Activities

The scope of activities of the Commission is:

- analyzing physical characteristics of NIR and reports of biological effects from exposure to NIR;
- recommending appropriate terminology, quantities, units and methods of measurement;
- developing protection criteria;
- recommending systems of protection against NIR, including appropriate exposure limits;
- giving guidance for the protection of workers, members of the public, patients and the environment;
- issuing statements, recommendations or papers on selected topics as appropriate, including reports on the application of Commission recommendations;
- collating and reporting of information and coordination of studies;
- initiating and participating in educational and research programs, and
- pursuing any other activities that allow the Commission to carry out its work.

In preparing recommendations the Commission considers the principles upon which protection measures can be based while leaving to the various international and national authorities/institutions the responsibility of formulating appropriate regulations and codes of practice.

The Commission may establish committees and/or task groups as it deems necessary to perform its functions and shall establish rules to govern its operations.

The Commission will seek to establish relationships with international and national organizations having responsibility for NIR protection. It will collaborate where possible and mutually advantageous with international non-governmental organizations including ICRU and ICRP, and international governmental organizations including United Nations organizations WHO, ILO, IAEA and UNEP and the Commission of the European Communities. Collaboration with other normalization and standardization organizations, as well as with scientific unions in the field of Non-Ionizing Radiation, will be pursued.

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Relationship with IRPA

The Commission shall maintain a close liaison and working relation with the Executive Council of IRPA.

The Commission shall submit its formal recommendations on protection against NIR for comment by the IRPA Executive Council and the IRPA Associate Societies, prior to publication.

Unless otherwise agreed between the IRPA Executive Council and the Commission, the period for comment will be 90 days.

The Commission shall report on its activities, recommendations and programme at each IRPA Congress.

IRPA shall contribute an annual grant to provide support for the work of the Commission.

Membership

The Commission membership shall comprise a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and up to twelve additional members.

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the Commission from among its members.

The election of the members of the Commission shall be made by the Commission from current members of the Commission and from nominations submitted by the Commission itself, the Executive Council of IRPA and the IRPA Associate Societies, with regard to an appropriate balance of expertise. Attention shall be paid to geographical representation.

A term of office of all Commission members terminates at the end of the next IRPA Congresses.

For each new term of office there shall be elections for the full membership.

The elections shall be organized at the last Commission meeting before the succeeding IRPA Congress.

Election procedures shall ensure that not less than three members are changed from one IRPA Congress to the next. In the intervening period, vacancies may be filled by the Commission.

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Retiring members of the Commission who have made extensive contributions to the work of the Commission may be elected by the Commission to the status of Member Emeritus.

Publications

The Commission shall publish its work independently or jointly with other appropriate organizations.

Copyright of all its publications is the property of the Commission.

Funding and Accounts

Grants and contributions from appropriate sources including IRPA shall be accepted by the Commission to provide support for its work. Funding from organizations/institutions shall only be accepted on the understanding that the Commission retains its scientific independence

All financial and legal matters are the responsibility of the Commission, and shall be handled by the Commission Officers.

All accounts shall be independently audited on an annual basis.

Alterations to this Charter

Alterations to this Charter, including dissolution, may be proposed by (i) the Executive Council, (ii) the duly authorised representatives of IRPA Associate Societies, or (iii) the Commission itself.

Alterations to this Charter, including dissolution, shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the IRPA General Assembly and shall require the assent of at least two-thirds of the membership of the Commission at a meeting specially called for that purpose.

Rules of Administrative Procedure

The Rules of Administrative Procedure of the Commission shall include items as mentioned in Annex.

ANNEX:
ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN RULES OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

Officers

The Officers of the Commission shall include the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Scientific Secretary.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the Commission from among its members, by secret ballot, to serve until the end of the succeeding International IRPA Congress.

The Chairman chairs the meetings of the Commission, and is responsible for the scientific work and administration of the Commission.

The Chairman shall maintain close liaison and working relationship with the Executive Council of IRPA. He is also responsible for reporting the proceedings and recommendations of the Commission at the next IRPA Congress.

The Vice-Chairman shall act in the capacity of Chairman in the event that the Chairman is unable to perform his duties.

The Scientific Secretary shall be broadly conversant with the NIR field, and shall be appointed by the Chairman with the approval of the Commission. The Scientific Secretary shall not be a member of the Commission, but shall keep the minutes of meetings and records of the Commission and be responsible for liaison with publishers of Commission documents. The records of the Commission shall be passed on from one Scientific Secretary to the next at any change.

Elections

All members of the Commission shall stand for re-election by Commission members. Not less than three but not more than five members shall be changed from one Congress to the next. In the intervening period, vacancies may be filled by the Commission. Such filled vacancies if in the second half of the term (between congresses) will be considered as member changes at the next Congress of IRPA. When changes occur in the membership, the Chairman shall inform the Executive Council of IRPA.

The elections shall be organized at the last Commission meeting before the succeeding International IRPA Congress. The election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would normally precede election of new Commission members.

Retiring members of the Commission who have made extensive contributions to the work of the Commission may be elected by the Commission to the status of Member Emeritus.

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A Member Emeritus will receive all Commission documents, and attend all meetings of the Commission, and be recognized for work performed, but will have no voting privileges.

Meeting rules

The Chairman, in consultation with the Vice-Chairman and the Scientific Secretary, shall prepare a programme to be submitted to members for discussion at its meetings. Proposals to be considered shall be submitted to the Scientific Secretary for circulation to all members and other invited individuals at least two months before any meeting of the Commission.

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority vote of the members. A minority opinion may be appended to the minutes of a meeting if so desired by any member upon submission of this opinion in writing to the Scientific Secretary.

A quorum of attending members for a Commission meeting shall be more than half of the membership. Members not attending meetings may identify their proxies to the Scientific Secretary prior to the meeting.

The Commission may invite individuals to attend its meetings to give special technical advice or to act as observers for appropriate organizations. Such persons shall not have voting privileges.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
ON NON-IONIZING RADIATION PROTECTION

MEMBERSHIP 1992

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Prof. M. Grandolfo	Vice Chairman	Italy	
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Prof. J.H. Bemhardt		Germany	
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Dr. A.F. McKinlay		U . K .	
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Prof. J.A.J. Stolwijk		USA	
Dr. M.L. Swicord		USA	
Dr. L.D. Szabo		Hungary	
Dr. T.S. Tenforde		USA	
Dr. H.P. Jammet	Chairman Emeritus	France	
Mme. A.S. Duchéne	Scientific Secretary	France	(to retire)