

Working with Electro Magnetic Energy "EME"

Safety@Optus – Hazard Standard



What you need to know

If your work involves working at an Optus work location, where there is the presence of Radio Frequency "RF" also known as Electromagnetic Energy "EME" you have a legal obligation to keep people safe.

EME is an invisible hazard and the effects of any exposure that exceeds the time weighted allowances or exposure standards are not always immediate.

For hazard control, a minimum is to ensure all workers are aware of the **"EMEG"** EME Guide for Site Safety, the zones to which it is safe to work and are appropriately trained as RF workers, or as a baseline, have completed an RTOs, RF and EME awareness course

Planning your work

It is in the design and planning stage that it is determined how the work on the site will be carried out with the presence of EME. This is where all information regarding the site is gathered, and work and planning decisions are made. It may require liaison with land / site owner to advise of proposed work or to update site information

Important Note :

The delivery of mobile carrier services is a business-critical function to Optus. Not all sites need to be turned off to do work, however Optus will always regard the safety and wellbeing of RF workers as its No1 priority. Once it is verified through technical analysis the site needs to be turned off or down, please submit the request

Legal Responsibilities - Australian Standards and Industry codes

There are several bodies that oversee and provide best practice standards and advice in regard to telecommunications product design and installations in Australia. They are the The Mobile Carriers Forum **"MCF"** is a division of the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association **"AMTA"** representing the three mobile phone carriers deploying mobile networks in Australia, There is also **"ARPANSA"** Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency who provide the occupational emission standards for Australian Telcos

"ACMA" Australian Communications and Media Authority is the main regulatory body to which are the recipients of the information provided by the above advisory groups

It will be the responsibility of the Supplier to aware of their legal obligations regarding the design, supply and installation of any telecommunications product and "where applicable" how it meets relevant Australian codes and standards and most importantly how it meets its duty of care as defined by **Cth WHS Act 2011**

Use of this Standard

This Standard "at times" will need to be read and used in parallel with other WHS standards to ensure that all concurrent duty holders are aware of its WHS obligations and all Optus contractor requirements are being met. The requirements listed in this standard will be used by Optus as part of the contractor audit assurance framework to verify the management of the WHS contractual and legislative obligations



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Safety@Optus – Contractor Requirements



Contractor Requirements

1. The Supplier must have a process of risk assessment to identify any type of hazardous EME emissions and the associated risks.
2. Where it is identified, the Supplier must have a process to make all workers on site aware of the EMEGs, safe work zones and what the controls that are in place prior to the work commencing.
3. The control measures used to manage the different types EME fields must be clearly communicated and consulted to all workers for input, then documented on the site-specific SWMS and the project risk register if applicable to other sites.
4. All PPE (personal protective equipment) or RF detection devices, such as Radmans etc. that is used as a part of a control measure must meet any required Australian standards if applicable, and be fit for purpose with proof of current calibration
5. All PPE must only be used for its intended purpose and in accordance with manufacturers recommendations
6. The Supplier is to ensure all workers who undertake RF tasks are appropriately trained to undertake RF tasks
7. Where applicable, conduct inspections of works to ensure compliance with the control measures that have been put in place to ensure the safe systems of work are effective
8. A Supplier must be able to verify that any emergency plans, entry and exit plans developed are by an appropriately trained certified person and the site supervision of the tasks are performed by appropriately trained and where applicable "certified or licenced person "
9. The Supplier is to ensure that any Council or local authority permits that are required are on site and available upon request
10. There is to be accountable person on site that can demonstrate the risk controls that are in place are fit for purpose and effective in preventing harm