Wireless health and safety and social acceptability of our network

GRI 416-1

Wireless Health and Safety

In Canada, Health Canada reviews studies from around the world, conducts its own research and sets guidelines for human exposure to RF electromagnetic fields. The guidelines are documented as Safety Code 6. This code sets the limits for safe exposure to RF emissions for all people, including vulnerable populations and people who work near RF emission sources. The code also outlines safety requirements for the installation and operation of devices that emit RF fields, such as mobile phones, Wi-Fi technologies and base station antennas. Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) has made compliance to Safety Code 6 mandatory for all proponents and operators of radio installations. ISED is responsible for approving RF equipment using Health Canada's Safety Code 6 standard for exposure and performing compliance assessments.

The deployment of 5G or "fifth generation" wireless systems, enables a fully connected mobile society and delivers unprecedented benefits to citizens, industry and government. Mobile communications use different parts of the RF spectrum, often referred to as low, mid and high-band spectrum. Millimeter (mm) wave (mmWave) spectrum bands, for example, is used for 5G deployment. mmWave spectrum is not new as it is already being used for fixed wireless communications and satellite internet services. Devices using mmWave spectrum have always been part of Health Canada's guidelines, which cover the entire RF spectrum range. For more information, please see the resources on ISED’s website and the CWTA website.
The safety and security of our customers is our top priority. Bell only purchases mobile phones that meet Health Canada’s Safety Code 6 RF emission requirements. Bell also ensures that all of the wireless network equipment that we place on towers, buildings and other support structures meets these requirements. When selecting the location of new telecommunication sites, Bell is sensitive to community concerns with respect to location and placement of facilities. Before selecting or acquiring property for any new telecommunication site, Bell first determines whether it is feasible to place antennas on existing structures, such as buildings and pre-existing towers. In this regard, Bell seeks to comply with ISED’s guidelines for public and municipal consultation as set out in ISED’s Client Procedures Circular CPC-2-0-03, Radio communication and Broadcasting Antenna Systems.

Social acceptability of our network

Bell works with community officials to identify local preferences and review established protocols. We engage in meaningful dialogue with municipalities, provincial as well as federal agencies and Indigenous communities, to mitigate local concerns about tower placement, operation and design. We also undertake thorough public consultations for proposed wireless antenna sites with local residents and stakeholders, and routinely conduct open houses, public meetings and written consultations in communities across the country, all to share information and understand local views on proposed tower sites.
To the extent this information sheet contains forward-looking statements including, without limitation, outlooks, plans, objectives, goals, targets, strategic priorities, commitments, undertakings and other statements that do not refer to historical facts, these statements are not guarantees of future performance or events, and we caution you against relying on any of these forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties and are based on assumptions that give rise to the possibility that actual results or events could differ materially from our expectations expressed in, or implied by, such forward-looking statements. Refer to BCE Inc.'s most recent annual management’s discussion and analysis (MD&A), as updated in BCE Inc.'s subsequent quarterly MD&As, for further information on such risks, uncertainties and assumptions. BCE Inc.'s MD&As are available on its website at bce.ca, on SEDAR at sedar.com and on EDGAR at sec.gov.