

ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL NON-IONIZING
RADIATION COMMITTEE OF IRPA

H.P. Jammet, Chairman of IRPA/INIRC,
and
A.S. Duchene, Scientific Secretary of IRPA/INIRC,
Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique, IPSN,
B.P. n° 6, 92265 Fontenay-aux-Roses, Cedex, France

ABSTRACT

The work achieved by the International Non-Ionizing Radiation Committee of IRPA since the 6th International IRPA Congress in May 1984 will be briefly reviewed. Stress will be laid more particularly on the new problems which had to be dealt with.

Following important progress made in research on the interaction of radiofrequency radiation with biological systems, particularly in the field of dosimetry, the Committee amended on several points the "Interim guidelines on limits of exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields" which were published in April 1984.

In recent years, concern developed, in a number of industrialized countries, about the health risks which might be associated with the increasing propagation of electric fields, for instance from high power transmission lines, and with the expanding use of static and slowly varying magnetic fields in advanced technologies and medical applications. The presently available data and conclusions reached by an international group of experts, as contained in UNEP/WHO/IRPA Environmental Health Criteria documents 35 for Extremely Low Frequency Fields (1984) and 69 for Magnetic Fields (1987), will be summarized. Some difficulties involved in the drafting of internationally acceptable recommendations in these fields will be outlined.