

Bulgaria

Exposure guidelines

Power density threshold for public environment is fixed to $10\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ ($0.1\text{ W}/\text{m}^2$) accumulated value for all frequencies in the range between 300MHz and 30GHz that is much stricter than these defined by ICNIRP. Mobile operators in Bulgaria strictly observe the statutory values set forth in ORDINANCE No 9 of the Minister of Healthcare and the Minister of Environment for the admissible limit values of electromagnetic fields in residential areas and determination of safety zones around EMF emitting facilities.

These limit values are mandatory and are subject to control by the National Center of Public Health Protection.

The compliance with the ORDINANCE No 9 is controlled during the design phase and the process of obtaining permits for construction of base stations as well as during their putting into operation.

Currently Ministry of Healthcare runs a project for adaptation of EMF-regulation. In this proposal are also foreseen national EMF-thresholds changes.

Planning Authority

Ministry of Healthcare for preliminary sanitary control – design phase.

Local municipality for Building Permit.

State authority - Directorate of National Construction Supervision for Permit of Use.

Requirements for planning permission

In accordance with the parameters of Ordinance No 9 each base station is subject to ex-ante (preliminary) and ex-post health impact control by the Ministry of Healthcare.

Preliminary control: During design phase of a base station, a theoretical calculation of safety zone is submitted to Ministry of Healthcare. The positive assessment from Ministry of Healthcare is a mandatory prerequisite for the issuance of a Building Permit for base stations.

The ex-post health impact control carried out after the construction of the base station has been completed and before putting it into operation. During on-air tests of a base station, laboratory which is certified for EMF measurements, measures power density in the surrounding area. It is wideband measurement, including all EMF emitting objects in the area – base stations, TV and radio transmitters, etc. If the measured values do not exceed the limits, we obtain Permit of Use for this base station.

Measurement protocols have to be registered at Ministry of Healthcare as well as at local municipality.

	Once a base station is operational, local representatives of Ministry of Healthcare can make control measurements at any time and location.
Timescales for Permission	<p>Requests for preliminary EMF expertise should be answered within one month, but in reality it takes more time. The situation is the same in terms of the measurement of the power density (on-air tests of a base station).</p> <p>The procedures for obtaining all permissions needed for construction and start operating a base station are quite complex. In practice a typical timescale goes more than one year for all permissions. Worst cases - more than two years.</p>
Appeals process	An appeal can be filed against the Decision or action of an Authority with the Court of Appeal.
Public Consultation	The local municipality has to make information available at city hall office. Any new base station and site design changes of the existed has to be registered in Public Register of sites with public purpose at the regional health inspection office.
Exemptions & Existing site upgrade	<p>Exemptions: For low power (in-building) sites preliminary sanitary control (assessment of theoretical safety zone from Ministry of Healthcare) is not required. The other part of the procedure remains the same.</p> <p>Site upgrades must follow the same process as new sites – no exceptions.</p>

(GSMA Europe: Extract from Base Station Planning Permission In Europe, December 2013.)