

# DECT and Health



**Mobile Manufacturers  
Forum**

Cordless telephony at home and at work is growing in popularity. Millions of people around the world use DECT cordless phones in their daily life. With so many users, it is natural that there are people asking whether this technology is safe. This brochure is designed to help answer any questions in relation to health and safety aspects of DECT.

## What is DECT?

DECT stands for Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunication and is a common standard for cordless telephony, messaging and data transmission. It is a radio technology suited for voice, data and networking applications in residential, corporate and public environments, and with range requirements up to a few hundred meters. DECT operates using radio signals in the frequency range from 1880 to 1930 MHz. The output power of DECT equipment is very low, from 0 to 0.01 watt for normal handsets and between 0.01 and 0.12 watt for the fixed base stations.

## What health research has been undertaken?

DECT devices emit low levels of radio waves (also known as radiofrequency electromagnetic fields) when being used. It is worth remembering that the use of radio waves is a common part of our everyday lives and provides the benefits and enjoyment of television and radio as well as an increasing range of wireless communication services. Because they have been used for so long, the safety of radio waves has been extensively studied for more than 50 years. This large and growing body of research

has been reviewed by numerous independent expert panels, government agencies, standard-setting organizations and health authorities from around the world. All have reached the same general scientific conclusion: that there is no established evidence of any adverse health effects from exposure to radio waves within the limits applied to wireless communications.



## Are there safety limits for exposure to radio waves?

Yes there are. Comprehensive international guidelines exist governing exposure to radio waves. The limits have been established by independent scientific organizations, such as the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), and include substantial margins of safety to protect all people. These guidelines have been widely adopted in standards around the world, and also endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). DECT products are subject to these standards. In the European Union compliance with the standards is shown by the CE mark. Due to the very low output power, the radio wave exposure from DECT handsets and base stations is far below the established limits.



## What about children?

The health and safety of our children is a concern to all of us. DECT devices are subject to safety standards endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). These standards take the safety of children into account by providing substantial margins of safety.

## Where can I go for further information?

To find more information please visit any of the following websites:

- World Health Organization  
[ [www.who.int/peh-emf](http://www.who.int/peh-emf) ]
- The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection [ [www.icnirp.de](http://www.icnirp.de) ]
- UK National Radiological Protection Board  
[ [www.nrpb.org](http://www.nrpb.org) ]
- Mobile Manufacturers Forum  
[ [www.mmfa.org](http://www.mmfa.org) ]
- DECT Forum [ [www.dect.org](http://www.dect.org) ]



## What is the MMF?

The MMF is an international association of radio equipment manufacturers whose members include Alcatel, Ericsson, Mitsubishi Electric, Motorola, Nokia, Panasonic, Philips, Sagem, Samsung, Siemens and Sony Ericsson. The MMF was established specifically to support ongoing international research into the safety of wireless technology in conjunctions with national and international health agencies around the world.

## What is the DECT Forum?

The DECT Forum is a globally acting industry association embracing suppliers and operators of DECT based terminals, systems and networks. Currently the DECT Forum has 19 member companies from around the world.



[www.dect.org](http://www.dect.org)



**Mobile Manufacturers  
Forum**

[www.mmfai.org](http://www.mmfai.org)