

FACT SHEET NO. 3

Radio Frequency (RF) Radiation (Safety Issues)

The Minister responsible for Telecommunications, through the Telecommunications Unit, has the responsibility of ensuring that all Radio Frequency (RF) emissions are at a safe level and, therefore, would not endanger the health and safety of the general population of Barbados.

Devices such as cell phones, two-way radios, radio and TV broadcast transmitters, communications transmitters and radar transmitters emit RF energy and, therefore, are strictly regulated by the Telecommunications Unit to ensure that the radiation emanating from these transmissions are well within the safety limits.

Non-ionizing radiation, the type of radiation emanating from these devices, has insufficient energy to ionize atoms but if unregulated, may produce enough heat to damage the cells of the body.

Radiation is greatest at antenna sites. The Telecommunication Unit has set strict guidelines at all antenna sites including mandatory heights of towers, the fencing of premises to protect people and animals from venturing too close to the area and the amount of power that can be transmitted from particular sites.

All Communication equipment capable of emitting RF entering Barbados must be type approved by the Telecommunications Unit. All cellular phones must adhere to the radiation safety level set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), European Telecommunications Standards Institute or any other relevant International Standard, as approved by the Telecommunications Unit.

The policy on **RF Safety** can be found in the Telecommunication Policy Document, "Transmitting Antenna RF Emission Safety: Rule Procedures and Practical Guidance".

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 for Telecommunications.
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