

About the JCRA

The JCRA is an independent authority established by the States of Jersey to enforce Jersey's competition law and regulate its telecommunication and postal sectors. In each of these areas, the JCRA's primary mission is to promote consumer welfare through efforts that encourage lower prices and greater choice and innovation in the goods and services available in Jersey. The JCRA is recognized internationally as a leading voice in the application of competition law and policy in small economies.



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Mobile Masts



Health and Safety



Overview

The JCRA requires the three mobile phone network operators in Jersey – Jersey Telecom, Sure, and Airtel-Vodafone (Me:Mo uses the Airtel Vodafone network) - to maintain wireless transmissions from mobile phone masts so that they meet the standards set down by the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation, or "ICNIRP". ICNIRP is a non-governmental organization and its standards are currently recognized by the World Health Organization. The ICNIRP standard is recognized within the European Union and other regions as the highest and most relevant standard against which to measure wireless transmissions.

While the JCRA recognizes that there is public concern regarding emissions from mobile networks this is not a concern unique to Jersey. Many other jurisdictions have addressed this concern with open and clear information about wireless sources. The JCRA makes this information available to the public and the wireless sites licensed by the authority are shown on the JCRA website interactive map. The ICNIRP readings given within the map's tables are expressed as a percentage of the recommended safe value where 100% would equal that value. This map may be found on the Mobile Mast Locator section of the JCRA website, www.jcra.je.

The radio transmissions from all mobile phone masts in Jersey are well within the applicable ICNIRP standards. This has been verified in two independent random audits the JCRA has conducted to date on mast emissions in Jersey, the most recent of which was completed on 30 December 2009.

It should be recognized that wireless microwave radiation exists all around us with or without the presence of mobile telephone networks. There is background radiation present in Jersey from the granite rock, from which the island is largely composed, and also from cosmic rays, which are in effect similar to wireless transmissions, that arrive on earth from space. In addition there are other man-made sources of radiation which include broadcast radio and television, radar, other wireless networks and medical equipment

Mobile Mast Distribution

There are 119 main mast sites in Jersey, approximately one per square kilometre of the island. While this may seem a large number, all are necessary to ensure adequate coverage of the island which is covered in small valleys and sheltered bays. In addition to the main sites there are also around 50 minor sites that cover smaller areas such as the harbour and airport. In addition many hotels have internal sites to improve reception for their guests. There are also microsites in built-up areas, again with the purpose of improving reception.

Each of the three operators on the island, Airtel-Vodafone, Jersey Telecom and Sure, have deployed their own networks to ensure adequate coverage and to provide differing services (Me:Mo operates on the Airtel-Vodafone network and therefore does not operate its own mobile phone masts). Where possible, the three operators have shared sites, but there are only a few such sites available such as the main transmitter sites of the broadcasting companies and those of the harbour and airport authorities. Elsewhere the operators have worked closely with the Planning and Environment Department to ensure that the impact of the mast sites is minimized.

Mobile sites are installed in locations away from public access to ensure maximum safety. The strongest signal is immediately in front of the antenna which is at the top of the mast, which is 10 metres or more above the ground as shown in Figure 1 below.

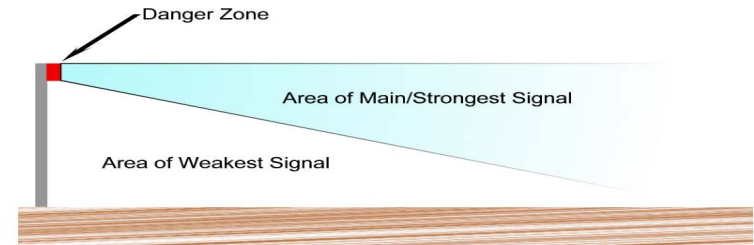


Fig 1

Mast parameter audit

The JCRA is required to audit the output from wireless transmitters regularly to ensure that they are within the ICNIRP standards. The first audit was carried out during 2008, a second audit was completed in 2009 and then bi-annually thereafter.

For further information

For further information on this subject, please go to the Mobile Mast Locator section of the JCRA website – www.jcra.je - where principle of how the mast emissions are measured and monitored is explained and where you can also find details of any masts in your local area on the interactive map. In addition, consumers may request, via email, phone or letter to the address on the below, a copy of the JCRA report for any transmitters in their immediate neighbourhood free of charge. The report includes all information that the JCRA holds on the particular site or sites. The JCRA will need to verify the home address of the person requesting the information and, when so verified, will provide the requested information by post.

References:

British Standards Institute: www.bsi-uk.com

European Telecommunications Standards Institute www.etsi.org

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization www.cenelec.org