

1. Minimising the impact of interference especially from new technologies

EMCC has been active in lobbying against the proposed Power Line Adapter (PLA) standard, prEN509561-1. This standard permits emissions up to 40dB above the existing IT apparatus standard outside the notched amateur bands. Unfortunately our lobbying of IARU Region1 was not accepted – in our view misguidedly. As a result EU national standards bodies, including the BSI where our view was also defeated, voted for the draft. CENELEC's (the EU standards body) and the EU Commission's emc consultant pronounced that the draft should not be approved as it did not meet the Essential Requirements of the EMC Directive. Following his retirement, the CENELEC Technical Board has now approved the draft, although it has not yet been published in the Official Journal of the EU, a prerequisite for it being adopted as a Harmonised Standard under the Directive. There is a worrying report that a Dutch telecoms provider is to supply un-notched PLAs; this is precisely the step development we have been concerned about in relaxing standards. We continue to watch this.

We have been lobbying the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) on the subject of emc compliance of domestic solar photo-voltaic electricity generating arrays (Solar PVs). This follows several complaints to Ofcom about interference from new installations. BIS, on the advice of the EU Commission, treat these as separate pieces of apparatus. However our view, which we feel is clearly supported by the Directive itself, is that each installation should be treated as a Fixed Installation which has a regime under the Directive where each individual installation has to be assessed for compliance *in situ*.

We have been concerned about interference from LED lighting sets. Our representations to Ofcom have seen them re-open for investigation a case previously closed. We are assisting with clear technical proof of why non-compliance has occurred.

Wireless Power Transfer, the charging of electrical devices, especially vehicles, is a recent issue. We have a member with experience of the power industry on the relevant CISPR (international interference standards committee) group.

We have been taking measurements of interference from a windfarm in Yorkshire and assessing what part of the installation the emissions are from.

We are working with BT to investigate emissions from a VDSL system and assessing whether this is an isolated case or a generic problem.

2. Review and update EMC pages on website to include self diagnosis flow charts

Our pages were updated as part of new website launch and further updates are planned. The flow chart diagnosis needs further work on how to integrate it in the new wordpress format linking in pictures and soundfiles.

3. Update EMCC leaflets

All except one completed and on the website.

The outstanding one is on radiation hazards. There is a balance to be struck here between giving what may seem as definitive views, which may be misinterpreted, and of giving sterile information. Referring to the Government's published "reference levels" may be the safest, accurate course.

We have dropped a leaflet on Ofcom's field strength measurements in intractable interference cases. Ofcom themselves have said that these are rarely done now as most cases of interference are to amateurs, not from them.

4. Recruit more Technical Advisors and improve problem recording and collation

Our adverts produced no volunteers. A new scheme using a forum and moderators is planned to give members advice. A lead moderator has been identified and deputies are being sought from among the existing advisors. Telephone advice will still be available but the active advisors will be organised by Technical expertise areas rather than regional.

5. On-going work

We need to work more closely with regulatory bodies, Ofcom and BIS (on the EMC Directive) in particular. It has been difficult to get our position and expertise recognised by Ofcom, but we can work as an early warning system for non-compliant spectrum-polluting products. A draft EU Regulation on market surveillance will impose a more rigorous regime on national enforcement authorities and opens up the acceptability of technical tests by external bodies such as ourselves.

We will continue to press Ofcom to introduce effective Interference Regulations under the WT Act and we will continue to lobby the EU on EMC Directive matters, eg PLAs and solar PVs. We are fully involved in the IARU Region 1 EMC Working Group.

We are now well placed to contribute to CISPR and to CENELEC via our BSI standards committee membership with three new members, recognising however that there is sometimes strong industry opposition to our spectrum protection position.

We are looking to begin a database of problem equipment together with fixes, where these are known and we will support the noise floor measurement project.

The Radcom EMC column continues to be an important window on our subject.

To assist with all of this our work will divide into two groupings on Technical Support and External relations, although there will be strong cross-linkings and common full committee meetings.

EMCC
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