Swisscom's approaches to Mobile Communications, Health and Society

Swisscom is committed to operating mobile communications infrastructure in a way that protects people and the environment while enabling responsible technological progress.

This framework describes Swisscom's approach to health protection, regulatory compliance and transparent engagement with communities in relation to mobile communications and non-ionising radiation (NIR).

1. Scope

This framework applies to:

- all Swisscom mobile network installations and technologies (2G to 5G and future standards)

- all activities related to planning, building, operating and modernising mobile sites

- regulatory reporting, monitoring and stakeholder engagement related to mobile communications

2. Principles

Energy efficiency and modernisation

- New mobile technologies use energy more efficiently and reduce emissions.

- A 5G installation consumes around 1.6 times less energy than a comparable 4G LTE Advanced installation for the same data volume.

- Ongoing 5G optimisations will further improve energy efficiency.

- Replacing older generations is essential to meet increasing data demand in a sustainable manner.

Compliance with national regulations

- Swisscom strictly complies with the Ordinance on Protection Against Non-Ionising Radiation (ONIR).

- Switzerland applies precautionary limits for sensitive areas that are ten times stricter than WHO recommendations.

- According to the Federal Office for the Environment (2025), median population exposure remains below 1% of the ONIR limit value.

Precaution and responsible operation

- Enforcement regulations include additional precautionary reserves, meaning approved limits are rarely fully exhausted.

- Many existing sites have reached their approved power limits, making additional infrastructure necessary to support growing data volumes.

3. Regulatory Context

Building permit procedures

- Federal Court decisions in 2024 clarified that activating the correction factor for adaptive antennas or replacing conventional antennas with adaptive ones requires a full building permit procedure.

- As a result, Swisscom submitted more than 1,000 retrospective applications, increasing the number of pending permits industry-wide from around 2,500 to more than 3,000.

- These procedural requirements currently slow down the expansion of 5G in Switzerland.

Political framework

- Motion 20.3237, adopted by Parliament in 2023, calls for faster 5G expansion and simplified building permit procedures.

- Its implementation would significantly improve the conditions for an efficient and sustainable network rollout.

4. Responsible Community Engagement

Transparency and dialogue

- Swisscom engages openly and objectively with municipalities and local communities on topics related to mobile communications.

- Public enquiries are addressed by dedicated experts.

- Swisscom supports independent information and research initiatives such as Chance5G and the Swiss Research Foundation for Electricity and Mobile Communication at ETH Zurich.

Quality assurance

- All mobile communications systems are operated within an ISO 33002:2015-certified quality assurance system.

- Swisscom successfully passed the 2025 monitoring audit with the targeted capability rating (3 out of 5).

- Transmission data from all sites is regularly provided to OFCOM, enabling authorities to verify ONIR compliance at any time.

5. Scientific Evidence

According to recent WHO meta-studies:

- There is no evidence of harmful effects of RF-EMF below limit values on pregnancy or birth outcomes.

- No increased risk of brain tumours has been identified.

- RF-EMF does not cause non-specific symptoms.

- There is no conclusive evidence for or against oxidative stress caused by RF-EMF.

- Up to 90% of personal exposure originates from an individual's own device rather than from antennas.

- Good network coverage and nearby antennas reduce overall exposure.

6. Commitment

Swisscom is committed to:

- ensuring full compliance with **environmenta**l and **building regulations**

- supporting **energy-efficient** and low-emission **technologies**

- maintaining objective and **transparent communication** about mobile networks

- supporting **independent research** and evidence-based public understanding

- fostering **constructive dialogue** with neighbours, municipalities and regulators