



Workplace Safety Bulletin

Information Bulletin
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“Radiation
Workplace Hazards”

Effects Of Radiation

“Exposure to sufficiently high levels of microwaves will cause heating. In the case of human tissue heating could cause serious health effects.... **The purpose of the Australian Standards is avoid all adverse health effects by limiting exposure.**”

This Standard applies to ovens designed for domestic application, **even if used in a workplace”**

SO : ARPANSA—Australian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Agency

Electromagnetic Field

Litigation

With the ever increasing use of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) in the workplace , employers have a number of areas of concern in respect to EMF Litigation.

Negligence Law - “ In theory analyses the failure of one party to fulfill an obligation to protect another party from harm.....legal obligation or **“Duty Of Care”** to protect against possible dangers from EMF. This standard requires that protection be given for all reasonably foreseeable risks, including the risks associated with EMF”

Cancerphobia As A Theory Of Compensational Damages

“..plaintiffs have won large monetary rewards for the *mental and emotional distress* caused by nothing more than a *perceived risk of injury*... courts are less likely to dismiss outright claims of EMF induced cancerphobia”

TI: Electromagnetic Field Injury Claims

SO: Boston University Law Review

Microwave Oven Workplace Radiation Rail , Tram & Bus Union NSW

Australian Standards have set guidelines for permissible levels of radiation leakage from microwave ovens used in a workplace or public place environment.

This applies to microwave ovens used in staff rooms, canteens & and workplace kitchens.

Tests have confirmed that microwave ovens can leak above these guidelines without showing obvious signs of physical damage.

Microwave Ovens shut down in workplaces have been found to leak radiation up to **20 times above** the limit.

The most practical way to accurately determine whether the above guidelines are being met is to have the microwave ovens tested in accordance with National Health & Medical Research Council procedures.

“Microwave Ovens used in workplace staff rooms are not excluded from the test approvals process and should be marked with approvals identification signifying compliance with AS/NZ3350.2.25” (Standards Australia)

“Employers would need to comply with the requirements of the Australian Standards in order to demonstrate that they have met their ‘Duty Of Care’ in relation to the control of radiation leakage from microwave ovens in the workplace” (Comcare)

Testing of microwave ovens may be included as part of a **preventative maintenance or occupational health & safety program** and will ensure Australian Standard radiation emission levels are being met.

Testing will provide workplaces with a further step in their **“duty of care”** towards this issue.



Small leakage detectors used by many electricians **should not be used** as they do not comply with the above requirements.

Test equipment shall be calibrated at intervals as required by a recognized laboratory (eg NATA) and calibration records shall be available upon request. (Standards Australia)

With offices throughout Australia, inspections may be arranged through **Microwave Safe Australia**, who has been servicing the Government & Corporate Sector since 1995.

To arrange inspections or for further information call

1 300 305 303

or visit

www.microwavesafe.net