



yurika

Part of Energy Queensland

# Advanced meters and possible health effects

People all over the world are exposed to electromagnetic fields (EMF) to varying degrees, and the levels of exposure will increase as technology advances further. There is no established scientific evidence that the low level radio frequency electromagnetic energy exposure from advanced meters causes any health effects.

**Advanced meters (also called Advanced Metering Infrastructure) can offer a dynamic, dependable and proven total systems approach to metering data collection and information analysis.**

The right product can:

- Make it easier to monitor usage
- Give accurate meter reads
- Provide timely data
- Deliver faster move in and out

With Power of Choice effective from 1 December 2017, people are taking more of an interest in advanced meters.

We want you to have the right information.

## How do Advanced meters work?

Advanced meters use a very low power radio frequency (RF) to communicate information such as meter readings to a base station for use in providing electricity service to customers.

RF signals from advanced meters:

- Are much lower than the signals from mobile phones
- Only occur in short bursts for a total of a few percent of the day
- Decrease rapidly with distance from the meter.

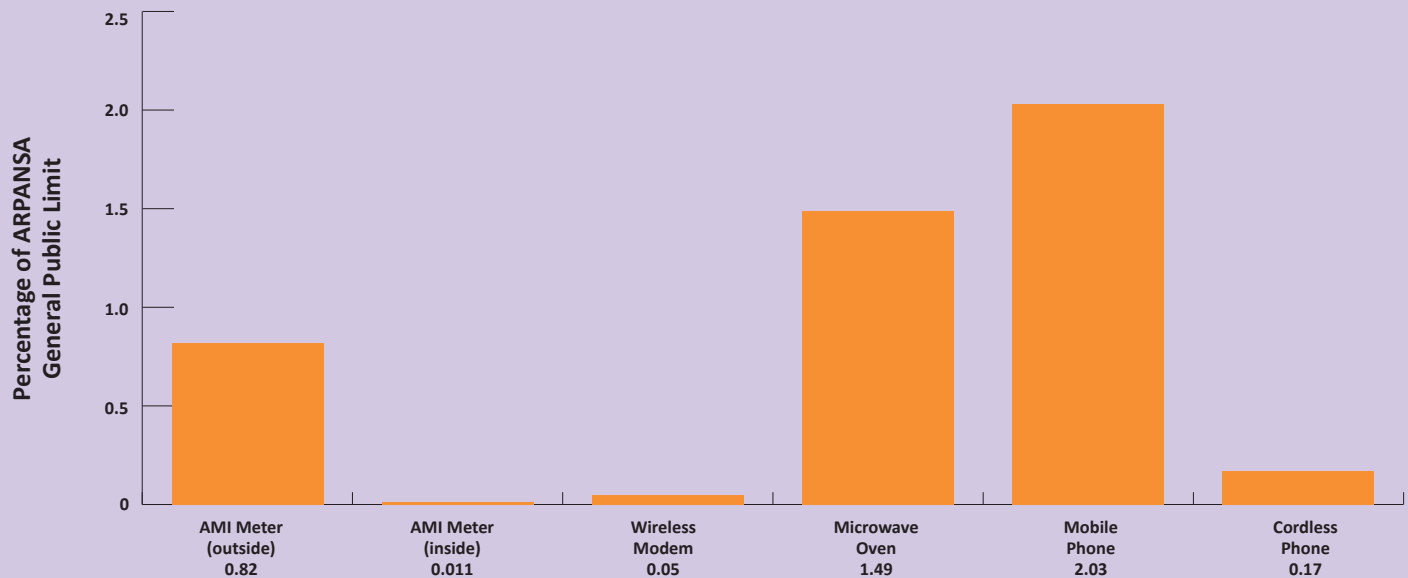
The radiofrequency (RF) electromagnetic energy (EME) emissions from advanced meters and other wireless devices used for communication are regulated by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). The ACMA's regulatory arrangements require wireless devices to comply with the exposure limits in the ARPANSA RF Standard. The ARPANSA Standard is designed to protect people of all ages and health status against all known adverse health effects from exposure to RF EME.

## Do Advanced meters cause any health effects?

Health authorities around the world, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), have examined the scientific evidence regarding possible health effects from advanced meters. Current research indicates that there are no established health effects from the low exposure to the RF EME from advanced meters.

The combination of the relatively low power of the smart meter transmitter, their location on the outside of buildings and the very short time spent transmitting means that the overall RF EME exposure from advanced meters is very low and well below the limits of the ARPANSA RF Standard, even when a number of devices are communicating simultaneously.

Graph showing comparison of RF EMF Power Density Levels (measured at 30cm):  
AMI Advanced meters and other Household Appliances



Source: AMI Meter Electromagnetic Field Survey Final Report prepared for Victorian Department of Primary Industries, October 2011 by EMC Technologies.

## Conclusion

There is no established scientific evidence that the low level RF EME exposure from advanced meters causes any health effects including symptoms of ill health communicated by some people.

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency will continue to review the research into potential health effects of RF EME emissions from advanced meters and other source to provide accurate and up to date advice.

### Useful Links:

[www.arpansa.gov.au](http://www.arpansa.gov.au)  
[www.who.int/peh-emf/en/](http://www.who.int/peh-emf/en/)

**yurika.com.au**

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