

Šrobárova 49/48, I 00 00 Prague 10 -Vinohrady

**Provision of information under Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on free access to information, as amended**

Dear,

The National Institute of Public Health (hereinafter referred to as "NPHI") received your request on 29 November 2022 pursuant to Act No. 106/1999 Coll., on Free Access to Information, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "InfZ"), in which you request the provision of the information listed below.

Before we move on to the specific answers to your questions, let us respond to the introductory text of your request:

***„in relation to your responsibility as a national regulator for broadcasting devices introduced to the market, such as mobile phones, tablets, smart watches, and other devices or accessories enabling wireless broadcasting. From this position and within the framework of European regulations, you are responsible for the safety and health of people who use these marketed devices in our country."***

In the context of the exposure of persons to non-ionising radiation, NPHI is not a regulator of devices placed on the market and, in terms of available legislation, as an organisation does not bear responsibility for damage to health by non-ionising radiation. The responsibility of NPHI in this area is to maintain legislation in this area in a form that reflects current scientific knowledge, particularly to propose legal exposure limits which, if they are not exceeded, an exposed person will not be at risk of harm to health, according to the current state of knowledge. Such a regulation in the Czech Republic is Government Regulation No 291/2015 Coll., the limits contained in which you refer to in your questions, and which you consider to be worthy of compliance.

- 1 **"Have you carried out Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) tests of electromagnetic radiation from mobile phones, tablets and other 'connected' devices on the body (head, trunk and limbs), and if so, under what conditions (products supplied by the manufacturer or taken from a shop)? If tests have been carried out, we request that all test reports be sent to us and made available to us."**

The concerned laboratory does not perform such tests.

- 2 **"Whether these models, which are considered non-compliant in France, have been the subject of particular attention by your departments in the Czech Republic? And what measures have you adopted in order to ensure the safety of consumers?"**

The particular models of devices have not been the subject of special attention by NPHI. To ensure consumer safety, there are legal exposure limits whose design is within the responsibility of NPHI. Enforcement of these limits is not the responsibility of the Institute.

- 3 **"Have you been informed about the recommendations of ANSES?"**

We have detailed information about the reported facts from internet sources.

- 4 **"When we have focused your attention on this recommendation, what do you intend to**

**do, given that a large proportion of these models have been placed on the French national market and may be on the national market in the Czech Republic?"**

It is not within the remit or competence of the NPHI to restrict the sale of products in this area in any way. We will monitor the situation. In view of the fact that the reported SAR exceedances are moderate (exposure limits have large safety factors), this is not, in our opinion, an acute problem requiring non-systemic intervention.

- 5 ***"Do you plan to perform SAR measurements on yourself or in cooperation with other authorities for mobile phones and other wireless devices and accessories used in the national market in accordance with ANSES recommendations?"***

Physical SAR measurements are inherently inaccurate and methodologically problematic. The error is both in the models (typically not performed on living humans, but on agar phantoms) and in the actual measurement. The NPHI in this area recommends the use of numerical modeling, which now allows the use of accurate electromagnetic models of the human body. Even numerical modeling of SAR and thus temperature is significantly more accurate than measurements of these variables. Such modelling, instead of the controversial measurement on phantoms, should be carried out by the manufacturers of the devices.

- 6 ***"Does your Agency agree with this request and would it support the French proposal in the relevant EU bodies?"***

We welcome any methodological refinement, but remind that even so, physical models designed to measure SAR will still be inherently inaccurate. In an era of ever-increasing computing power, all such tests should be replaced by numerical modelling. We are inclined to the view that repeatability is more important than the specific test setup.

- 7 ***"Which Czech legislation currently defines the maximum permissible SAR levels?"***

It concerns Government Regulation No. 291/2015 Coll., which is an implementing regulation to Act No. 258/2000 Coll.

- 8 ***"Is there any legislation in the Czech Republic concerning radiation from wireless technologies take into account the different body structures of children (including foetuses) and adults?"***

Yes, the different physical structure of children and adults is taken into account.

Best regards

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director