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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2016 No. 588**

The Control of Electromagnetic  
Fields at Work Regulations 2016

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

**Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work Regulations 2016 and come into force on 1st July 2016.

**Interpretation**

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the 1974 Act” means the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974;

“AL” means an action level set out in Parts 2 and 3 of the Schedule;

“direct biophysical effect” means an effect on human body tissue caused by its presence in an electromagnetic field;

“electromagnetic field” means a static electric, static magnetic and time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic field with a frequency of up to 300 GHz;

“ELV” means an exposure limit value set out in Part 2 of the Schedule;

“employee at particular risk” means—

(a) an employee who has declared to his or her employer a condition which may lead to a higher susceptibility to the potential effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields; or

(b) an employee who works in close proximity to electro-explosive devices, explosive materials or flammable atmospheres;

“health effect” means a direct biophysical effect which is potentially harmful to human health;

“indirect effect” means an effect, caused by the presence of an object or a substance in an electromagnetic field, which may present a safety or health hazard;

“sensory effect” means a direct biophysical effect involving a transient disturbance in sensory perception or a minor and temporary change in brain function.

(2) In these Regulations a reference to employees is, in relation to an employer, to be treated as a reference to the employees of that employer while they are at work.

**Application**

3. These Regulations do not apply to the master or crew of a ship or to the employer of such persons in respect of the normal shipboard activities of a ship’s crew which are carried out solely

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by the crew under the direction of the master, and for the purposes of this regulation “ship” includes every description of vessel used in navigation, other than a ship forming part of Her Majesty’s Navy.