Notification Number: 1992/61/F

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Message

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ICC: PLEASE FORWARD THIS MESSAGE TO ICC MAILBOX EFTBT
TELEX 002

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (92) D/50354/2
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC AND 88/182/EEC
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001
NOTIFICATION 92/0061/F

- 3B2 : 9200352.EN

1. Structured Information Line
TLX 002 IND- 92 0061 F-- EN ------ 920219 --- ---

2. Member State
France

3. Department Responsible
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3. Originating Department
Ministry of Industry and Foreign Trade
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4. Notification Number
92/0061/F

5. Title
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6. Products Concerned
Information processing devices for household or business use and microwave ovens for household use.

7. Notification Under Another Act
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8. Main Content
The aim of this draft order is the compulsory implementation of two European standards on radio interference, for two categories of equipment :

- information processing devices for household or business use ('class B' devices), other than telecommunications terminals and radio terminal equipment.,

- microwave ovens for household use.

This draft falls within the framework of the discussions which took place on the occasion of the proposal of a directive amending Directive 89/336/EEC of 3 May 1989, which resulted in a common position adopted by the Council of the European Communities on 19December 1991, providing for the deletion of Article 10(3) of Directive 89/336/EEC and the addition to Article 12.1 of an indent saying that 'the Member States authorise, for the period up to 31December 1995, the marketing and/or placing into service of the devices covered by this Directive in accordance with the national regulations in force on their territory on 30 June 1992'.

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The draft order thus provides for introducing into Annex B of the Order of 24 October 1984, amended, of two new headings concerning the abovementioned devices, with reference to the type-approved French standards and the standards of the other Member States transposing the European standards EN 55-022 and EN 55-011.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds
The radio communications regulation of the International Telecommunication Union lays down the allocation of the frequency bands, from 9 kHz to 400 GHz, among the different services (stationary, mobile, radio navigation, radio astronomy, etc.) and stresses the need for each country to ensure that these services, especially that of safety, are

protected against all types of radio interference.

In particular, Article 18 'Interference 'Section 2' Interference caused by all types of electrical devices and installations other than equipment for industrial, scientific and medical uses', stipulates that :

'The administrations must take all practical steps necessary to ensure that the operation of all types of electrical devices and installations, including power supply and telecommunications networks but excluding devices intended for industrial, scientific and medical uses, cannot cause interference prejudicial to a radio communication service, in particular that of radio navigation and other safety services, operated in accordance with this Regulation'.

Article 18(3), on industrial, scientific and medical uses, requires that :

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'The administrations must take all practical steps necessary to ensure that radiation from devices intended for industrial, scientific and medical uses is reduced to a minimum and that, outside the frequency bands that can be used, the level of radiation cannot cause interference prejudicial to a radio communication service, in particular that of radio navigation and other safety services, operated in accordance with this Regulation'.

France, having ratified this international treaty, must like the other countries keep the parasitic radiation emitted by electrical devices and networks to a level low enough not to interfere with radio communication services.

The basic sources of pollution of the spectrum such as can be determined from interference reports and practical measurements are, today, chiefly household microwave ovens and information processing devices including, in particular, microcomputers.

As regards information processing devices, the considerable and fast technological development of recent years has led to working frequencies of the order of 30 MHz and today even 50 MHz and, on insufficiently shielded equipment, disturbing harmonic radiation is found in the VHF and UHF bands between 30 and 1000 MHz. There are numerous radio communication services using this part of the spectrum :

- safety services such as aerial radio navigation, the independent safety networks used by the police, the fire brigade, the emergency rescue services.,
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- public radio telephone and radio and television broadcasting services.

More and more complaints about interference are being received by the national radio communications service of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications concerning microcomputers, and in the field they can often only be rectified by changing the devices causing the interference.

The urgency of having a regulation for information processing devices also results from the fact that the microcomputers market is tending to contract, which is exacerbating competition and causing industrialists to reduce production costs, often to the detriment of the quality of electronic components and shielding and thus to the detriment of protection of the radio frequency spectrum.

In the field of microwave ovens, it has been found for several years that processing with very high frequency waves has gone past the stage of large industrial appliances and is now being used in appliances for the general public which normally operate in a frequency band centred around 2.45 GHz. They emit higher and higher powers (now more than 1kW) and if the shielding is inadequate can produce interference radiation in a wide frequency range (see especially reports 1104 and 854-1 of the International Radio Consultative Committee).

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The radio communications regulation authorises the use of devices intended for industrial, scientific and medical uses in the 2400-2500 MHz band provided that they do not interfere with services operating in the adjacent bands. The results of measurements carried out in different countries show that the magnetrons of many ovens are centred on a frequency some way away from 2450MHz and emit excessively high radiation outside the band accorded them, in particular below 2400MHz.

All of these factors, coupled with the fact that in France, unlike in a number of foreign countries including the Member States, these products are not covered by any clearly adequate regulations or by any regulations at all, induce the French authorities to adopt regulations which will make it possible to avoid the marketing of devices likely to cause unacceptable interference with safety services and thereby increase the risks of accident.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts
Order of 24 October 1984, amended.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure
No

12. Grounds for the Emergency
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D. WILLIAMSON
COMEUR
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