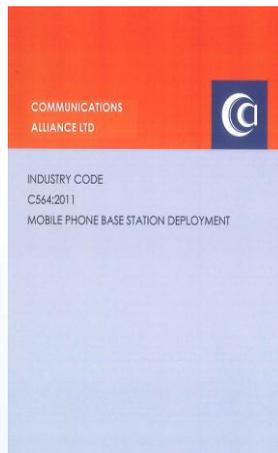


## Industry Code C564:2011

# Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment

The Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code 2011 (commonly referred to as “the Deployment Code”) outlines the steps telecommunications carriers must take when deciding the location and design of new mobile phone base stations. All licensed mobile network carriers must comply with the requirements of the Code.



The Code is designed to complement the existing regulatory and legislative requirements for telecommunications deployment. It ensures greater community consultation and participation in the siting of mobile phone base stations and requires carriers to apply a precautionary approach, during the site selection, design and operation of mobile phone base stations.

### The precautionary approach

The Code provides the context for the application of a precautionary approach to site selection and design.

In considering the location of a new site, carriers are required to have regard to:

- areas which may be considered to be ‘community sensitive’ locations;
- minimising exposure to electromagnetic emissions or radiation (EME or EMR);
- the carrier’s service objectives;
- the outcomes of consultation processes undertaken, and
- relevant state and local government planning policies.

When designing a new site, carriers are required to have regard to;

- the reason for the installation of the infrastructure considering their coverage, capacity and quality objectives;
- the positioning of antennas to minimise the obstruction of radio signals;
- the service requirements of the site;
- restricting access to areas where EME exposure may exceed the safety limits;
- the objective of minimizing power whilst meeting service objectives and
- whether the cost of achieving this objective is reasonable.

Carriers must also apply a precautionary approach to site operation by being able to demonstrate compliance with Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) EME regulations, restrict general public access to identified EME hazard areas and have regard to relevant occupational health and safety requirements.

### Community consultation

The Code outlines extensive consultation procedures which must be undertaken for sites that are classified as ‘low impact’ in accordance with the requirements of the Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 1997 (as Amended). Sites that are not low impact must comply with the relevant Local and State Government planning regulations and council’s consultation requirements.

Consultation requirements for ‘low impact’ facilities vary depending on the type of facility that a carrier proposes to install. For example, an installation at a new site requires a carrier to prepare a consultation plan based on its assessment of possible interested and affected parties.

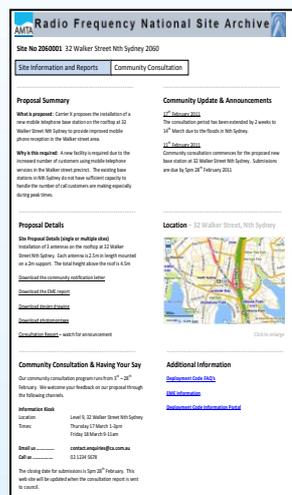
# MCF Fact Sheets



Prior to undertaking the consultation, the carrier must consult with the council about the consultation plan. The Code outlines minimum timeframes that must be followed during the consultation processes.

The consultation plan must be written so that it is 'fit for purpose', in other words it needs to be responsive to consultation outcomes and be easily adaptable. In many cases, the consultation plan will evolve during the consultation process.

## Online site information



A key component of the new Code is the concept of the industry supplying easily accessible internet information. All mobile base stations have a site specific information page on the internet database called the Radio Frequency National Site Archive ([www.rfnsa.com.au](http://www.rfnsa.com.au)) that provides details about the location, environmental EME levels, compliance and carrier contact details.

For all new sites that do not require Development Approval, the online site database will have a dedicated "Community Consultation" page that includes

- What is proposed
- Why the site is needed
- The consultation plan and proposed consultation activities
- Technical information about the proposal and up to date information about the status of the site as the consultation process evolves.

## Health and Safety Information

An ARPANSA Environmental EME Report must be prepared for all new mobile phone base station installations and for upgrades of existing sites.

The ARPANSA EME Report has been developed by the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) to ensure that information about mobile phone base stations and levels of EME are clearly presented to interested stakeholders during the consultation process when construction of the facility is complete.

A site specific Environmental EME Report can be requested from the relevant carrier or accessed at [www.rfnsa.com.au](http://www.rfnsa.com.au)

## Complaints about Code Activities

The Code requires carriers to have written procedures for dealing with complaints about their compliance with the Code. If a complaint is not resolved, it can be referred to the ACMA.

Not all members of the community may be satisfied by improved consultation and some sites may remain controversial for some people, however, carriers take the concerns of the community seriously and are committed to addressing these concerns responsibly.

## Development of the Code

The Code was originally introduced in 2002, and was then known as "ACIF 564:2002 Deployment of Radiocommunications Infrastructure" Industry Code. A review of the Code was conducted in 2003 and a revised Code, called the "Deployment of Mobile Phone Network Infrastructure" Industry Code was published in 2004.

The latest review of the Code occurred in 2011 and the Code was renamed C564:2011 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code. The Deployment Code came in to effect on 1 July 2012. The Code was developed by community, consumer, industry and government representatives.

A copy of the Deployment Code can be obtained at the Communications Alliance mobile phone tower information page under Quick Info with the hyper link for C564:2011 <http://www.commsalliance.com.au/mobile-phone-tower-information>

## For more information contact Mobile Carriers Forum

[www.mcf.amta.org.au](http://www.mcf.amta.org.au)

Ph: (02) 6295 8191

*Additional independent information may be obtained from:*

Communications Alliance (CA)

[www.commsalliance.com.au](http://www.commsalliance.com.au)

Ph: (02) 9959 9111

Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)

<http://emr.acma.gov.au>

Ph: (03) 9963 6800

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)

[www.arpansa.gov.au](http://www.arpansa.gov.au)

Ph: (03) 9433 2211