Electric fields are produced by voltage and magnetic fields by electrical current required for all electrical equipment. Information and telecommunication network operators are responsible for ensuring network equipment (especially masts) and mobile phone handsets operate within safe levels of electromagnetic fields (EMF).

MTN monitors the latest international research and scientific publications on EMF, and complies with the following international standards:
- International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP);
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU);
- World Health Organisation (WHO);
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE); and
- European Union (EU) standards.

MTN’s employees, contractors, customers, communities and regulators are interested in how we manage electromagnetic fields. Furthermore, the general public has concerns regarding EMF emissions from network masts located in public areas such as open fields, near homes and shopping malls, etc. MTN is responsible for ensuring that network masts operate within safe levels. To ensure that our devices operate within safe levels, EMF risk management guidelines are incorporated in the Group’s site build toolkit. The chief technology officer of each country in which we operate is ultimately responsible for ensuring that network sites are compliant with EMF standards.

MTN’s mobile handset suppliers are required to provide electrical and electromagnetic safety certification confirmations to the national communications authority of each country in which we operate. These certificates must confirm that the products supplied are compliant with Electrical Safety Testing Standard EN50191 and the European Standard for Safety of Battery Chargers ENE03352-29 standard, international specifications and country specific regulations. MTN distributes devices directly in its operating areas. MTN branded devices also undergo safety tests such as Electromagnetic Compatibility and Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) test which are based on the European Telecommunication Standards Institutes (ETSI).

MTN’s corporate services is responsible for engaging with regulators, members of the public and other stakeholders on matters related to environment and health to ensure that any concerns raised are addressed. Field workers and employees required to conduct extensive mobile telecommunications are more exposed to health and safety, hence they are required to undertake annual compliance training and certification.

For more information about EMF, please refer to the “Mobiles and Health” public policy section on the GSMA website at this link http://www.gsma.com/publicpolicy/consumer-affairs/emf-and-health/emf-policy.