INTRODUCTION

Electric and magnetic fields are often referred to as “electromagnetic fields,” or EMF. There is concern that EMF may affect your health. All electric welding processes create EMF.

IS EMF HARMFUL?

Many scientific tests have been, and are still being, conducted by governmental and private agencies to determine if EMF is harmful to our health. Studies to date indicate that there is no confirmed evidence of health problems from EMF.

HOW DO I MINIMIZE EXPOSURE?

- Do not place your body between the welding electrode and work cables. Route cables on the same side of your body.
- Route the welding cables close together. Secure them together with tape or cable ties. Parallel cables cause each other’s magnetic fields.
- Connect the work cable to the workpiece as close to the weld zone as practical.
- Keep the welding power source and cables as far away from you as practical.
- Never coil a welding cable around your body.
- Consult the EMF Data Sheet (in the equipment instruction manual) for non-thermal effects, exposure indices (EIs) and the distances to the welding circuit (for each operation mode, as applicable).

INFORMATION SOURCES


American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH). *Documentation of the Threshold Limit Values and Biological Exposure Indices*, available from ACGIH, 1330 Kemper Meadow Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45240-1634 (telephone: 513-742-2020; website: www.acgih.org).


