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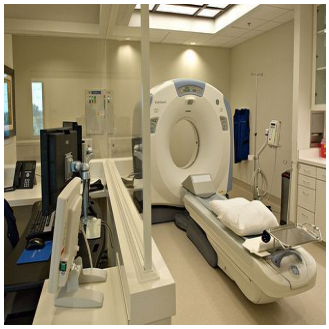
COCIR Initiative on Eco-Design: 2012 Annual Report for Computed Tomography



The European Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry association, COCIR, has published its 3rd Annual Self-Regulatory Initiative (SRI) Status Report focusing on Computed Tomography (CT).

COCIR's membership continues to proactively invest in green technologies as they are convinced this remains key in meeting the challenges healthcare and EU citizens will face in the near future within an even more challenging regulatory environment.

Based upon COCIR efforts initiated in 2008, the adopted SRI methodology has focused on CT, having covered Ultrasound (US) and Magnetic Resonance (MR) modalities in 2010 and 2011 respectively. This initiative is supported by the European Commission.

COCIR's members have been successful in steadily reducing energy usage while continuing to improve the clinical value of medical imaging equipment, based on a set of ecodesign targets reached among themselves.

Computed Tomography (CT) is a medical imaging method that combines multiple X-ray images taken from different angles to produce detailed cross-sectional pictures of areas inside the body. The resulting images provide more information than regular X-rays and allow doctors to look at individual slices within the 3D images.

Nicole Denjoy, COCIR Secretary General, said, "Our annual report shows that a significant reduction in the daily energy consumption can easily be obtained (between 31 and 47% of total daily energy consumption). In other words, for each equipment installed, 11,200 kWh of electricity can be saved per year. This is equivalent to saving €1,262 per equipment per year."

"The application of SRI to CT equipment marks a new understanding in energy behaviour and shows how to maximise its use in hospitals and clinics while the green procurement concept is expanding," she continued. "Through proper information and training, significant savings are still possible. Proper use and maintenance of such equipment will significantly contribute to the environmental and economical sustainability of healthcare systems."

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