

INTER-AGENCY SPACE DEBRIS COORDINATION COMMITTEE (IADC): SPACE DEBRIS MITIGATION GUIDELINES

International mechanism:

Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, 2002; revised 2007

Description:

At the 17th meeting of the IADC in Darmstadt, Germany, during 11-13 October 1999, Working Group 4 undertook the challenge to develop the first set of consensus international space debris mitigation guidelines. This effort was designated IADC Action Item 17.2. Together, Working Group 4 and the Steering Group during 2001-2002 developed and refined a draft set of mitigation guidelines. The IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines were adopted by consensus of the Steering Group in October 2002 and were presented to the Scientific and Technical Committee of the United Nations' Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in February, 2003. A minor revision to the guidelines was accepted by the Steering Group in September, 2007.

The IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines describe existing practices which have been identified and evaluated for limiting the generation of space debris in the environment. The guidelines cover the overall environmental impact of space missions with a focus on (1) limitation of debris released during normal operations, (2) minimisation of the potential for on-orbit break-ups, (3) post-mission disposal, and (4) prevention of on-orbit collisions.

Applicability:

The IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines are non-binding and as such applicable to mission planning and the design and operation of spacecraft and orbital stages that will be injected into Earth orbit. Organizations are encouraged to use these guidelines in identifying the standard that they will apply when establishing the mission requirements for planned spacecraft and orbital stages. Operators of existing spacecraft and orbital stages are encouraged to apply these guidelines to the greatest extent possible.

Relation to international mechanisms:

The IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines were used as a foundation for the development of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee, which were adopted by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and later endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, as well as the basis of the ISO standard 24113 "space systems – space debris mitigation".

References:

http://www.iadc-online.org/index.cgi?item=docs_pub