

**JAPAN** [UPDATED ON 18 FEBRUARY 2022]**National mechanism:**

Act on Launching of Spacecraft, etc. and Control of Spacecraft (Act No. 76 of 16 November 2016).

**Description:**

In order to implement UN treaties on outer space accurately and smoothly, to ensure public safety, and to contribute to enhancing the livelihood of people and the development of the economy and society, Japan established a system for permission for the launch of a launch vehicle and control of spacecraft and a compensation scheme for damages to a third party caused by launching a launch vehicle.

Article 6 of the Act refers to standards included in requirements for permission for the launching of spacecraft and Article 22 refers to space debris mitigation measures included in license requirements for the control of spacecraft. Detailed contents and procedures are specified in the “Guidelines on Permission Related to Launching of Spacecraft, etc.”, “Guidelines on License Related to Control of Spacecraft”, and “Review Standards and Standard Period of Time for Process to Procedures under the Act on Launching of Spacecraft, etc. and Control of Spacecraft”, made by the National Space Policy Secretariat, Cabinet Office on 15 November 2017.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has its own space debris mitigation standard, which is governed by domestic law and international standards (Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, IADC guideline, ISO standards). The current JAXA standard, JAXA Management Requirements 003D (JMR-003D) provides in - depth technical procedures for debris mitigation measures involving reentry and specifies detailed requirements. JAXA applies the standard to its own projects.

**Applicability:**

A person who intends to implement the launching of spacecraft, etc. using a launch site located in Japan or onboard a ship or aircraft with Japanese nationality, and the control of a spacecraft using a spacecraft control facility located in Japan, etc. must obtain permission from the Prime Minister.

**Relation to international mechanisms:**

“Act on Launching of Spacecraft, etc. and Control of Spacecraft” was established to implement UN treaties on outer space.

**Link to other national mechanisms:**

None.

**References:**

None.