



# Practice of Nation States: The United States of America



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by  
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# Practice Characteristics



- **Jurisdiction and control through comprehensive launch licensing**
  - Preparation, launch and re-entry
  - Citizens and other entities
  - International agreements
- **Continuing supervision: application - specific**
  - Includes operations
- **Categories of registered objects**
- **Recently clarified criteria for launch object registration**





# **Comprehensive Jurisdiction and Control: Preparation to Re-Entry**

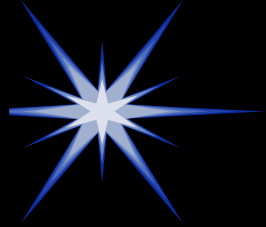
- **"Launch"**

- **Place or try to place a launch vehicle or re-entry vehicle any any payload from Earth**

- **In sub-orbital trajectory**
- **In Earth orbit**
- **Otherwise in outer space**
- **Including**

- **Preparation of a launch vehicle or payload for launch when at a U.S. launch site**

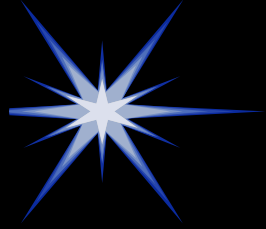




# **Comprehensive Jurisdiction and Control: Preparation to Re-Entry**

- **"Launch vehicle"**
  - Built to operate in, or place a payload in, outer space
  - Suborbital rockets
- **"Launch site"**
  - Earth location and necessary facilities from which launch takes place
    - As defined in license issued or transferred by Secretary of Transportation
      - Delegated to FAA Assc. Admin. for Commercial Space Transportation, consistent with public health, safety, property safety

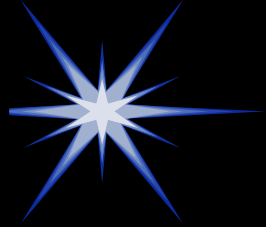




# **Comprehensive Jurisdiction and Control: Preparation to Re-Entry**

- **"Reentry site"**
  - **Earth location to which a re-entry vehicle is intended to return**
    - **As defined in a license issued or transferred by the Secretary of Transportation**
      - **Delegated to FAA Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation**
      - **Issue or transfer must be consistent with public health, safety and safety of property**





# **Comprehensive Jurisdiction and Control: Preparation to Re-Entry**

- **Insurance**
  - **Must be obtained by licensee for all stages**
  - **Statutorily prescribed standards for amounts**
    - **"maximum probable loss"**
  - **Cross waivers required under certain conditions**
    - **Re-entry**
    - **Launch and re-entry among contractors, subcontractors, customers**
    - **Contractors and subcontractors of customers**





# **Comprehensive Jurisdiction and Control: Citizens and Other Entities**

- **Citizens**
  - **Individuals**
  - **Entities organized under U.S. or state law**
- **Non-U.S. entities, if**
  - **Organized under foreign law and**
  - **Controlling interest held by U.S. individual or entity**
- **Foreign launches require license, if**
  - **U. S. entity has controlling interest and**
  - **Foreign country agrees U.S. has jurisdiction**





# **Comprehensive Jurisdiction and Control: Citizens and Other Entities**

- **Launch outside all national territories requires license for U.S. citizens and entities**
  - Unless U.S. and a foreign country agree that foreign country has jurisdiction
- **Specific international agreements**
  - ISS partners retain jurisdiction and control over registered elements, for example





# Continuing Supervision:

## Application - Specific Operations



- **Separate legislative instruments**
- **Telecommunications**
  - Licensing extends to "use or operate apparatus for the transmission of energy or communications or signals by space or Earth stations"
- **Remote sensing**
  - Private entities need operating licenses in addition to launch and other licenses





# Categories of Registered Objects



- "Spacecraft engaged in practical applications and uses of space technology such as weather or communications"
- "Spent boosters, spent maneuvering stages, shrouds and other non-functional objects"
- Announces all objects, including newly discovered space debris
  - Provides information about debris decay in the atmosphere
- Shuttle missions
  - Separate missions are listed

Shuttle-launched satellites are listed by shuttle launch date

One listed date of separation between shuttle and object





# Recently Clarified U.S. Criteria for Launch Object Registration

- **State Department is upgrading national registry; plans**
  - Internet accessible
  - Updated electronically
- **Clarified criteria used to determine whether or not a payload will be included in national registry**
  - Intended to ensure owners/operators understand circumstances when objects are or are not registered by U.S.
- **International practice mixed in the past**
- **Point of contact: State Department Office of Space and Advanced Technology**



# Recently Clarified U.S. Criteria for Launch Object Registration

- **Appropriate for a State to register all payloads**
  - owned or controlled by its private and governmental entities
  - launched from outside its territory
  - unless otherwise agreed by relevant states
- **State of a payload's owner/operator is best positioned to exercise jurisdiction and control**

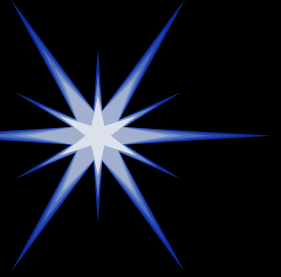


# Clarified U.S. Criteria for Launch Object Registration



- **For U.S. payloads, wherever launched**
  - Owners/operators requested to provide payload information for registry once payload is in orbit
- **For non-U.S. payloads, launched from U.S. territory or facility**
  - Owner/operator should ensure payload is on registry of state-parties





# Questions, Comments?

