

## AUSTRALIA

### National mechanisms:

As of November 2013, Australia has not adopted yet any national mechanism to fully implement the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee or IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines into binding legislation. Space debris mitigation policy is confirmed in:

1. Australia's Satellite Utilisation Policy – 2013
2. Guidelines for Applicants seeking to apply for an Overseas Launch Certificate

Legal Framework:

- *Space Activities Act, 1998*

### 1. Australia's Satellite Utilisation Policy

#### Description:

In April 2013, the (then) Australian Government released its new space policy, formally known as *Australia's Satellite Utilisation Policy*, principle four of which confirms that, in contributing to a stable space environment, the Australian Government will *inter alia*:

“Adhere to the UN Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines in undertaking its space activities.”

and

“Actively participate in the negotiation of an International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities, as an important and necessary step in the development of international norms for good behaviour in space.”

Australia's Satellite Utilisation Policy, which closely follows, but replaces, the previously released (September 2011) *Principles for a National Space Policy*, is a statement of Australia's objectives and direction for civilian space activities.

#### Applicability:

Australia's Satellite Utilisation Policy, which closely follows, but replaces, the previously released (September 2011) *Principles for a National Space Policy*, is a statement of Australia's objectives and direction for civilian space activities. It is not a legal document.

## **2. Guidelines for Applicants seeking to apply for an Overseas Launch Certificate**

### **Description:**

The Guidelines for Applicants seeking to apply for an Overseas Launch Certificate pursuant to the Space Activities Act 1998 specify that an applicant for an overseas launch certificate should provide inter alia the following:

“a debris mitigation strategy that addresses the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN COPUOS).”

The launch from outside Australia of a payload or launch vehicle in which an Australian national has an ownership interest, including an ownership interest in any part of the payload or launch vehicle, requires an overseas launch certificate. An Australian national must also obtain an overseas launch certificate to carry out a launch overseas. The Guidelines for Applicants seeking to apply for an Overseas Launch Certificate is issued by the relevant Government regulatory authority, the Space Licensing and Safety Office (SLASO), to advise potential applicants of the administrative requirements for the issue of this certificate.

### **Applicability:**

The *Space Activities Act 1998* is binding Australian legislation. The requirements under the Act and the *Space Activities Regulations 2001* for applicants seeking an overseas launch certificate, as they are reflected in the Guidelines for Applicants seeking to apply for an Overseas Launch Certificate, are binding on all Australian nationals, with certain exemptions for Commonwealth entities.

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### **Relation to international mechanisms:**

The *Space Activities Act 1998* reflects obligations set out under the Outer Space Treaty, the Rescue Agreement, the Liability Convention, the Registration Convention and the Moon Agreement. These treaties are incorporated as schedules to the Act.

### **Link to other national mechanisms:**

None.

**References:**

- Satellite Utilisation Policy  
<http://www.space.gov.au/Documents/Australia's%20satellite%20utilisation%20policy%20-%20version%201.1p%20-%2016%20April%202013.pdf>
- Space Activities Act 1998 (Cth)  
<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2004C01013>
- Space Activities Regulations 2001  
<http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2004C00906>
- Guidelines for Applicants seeking to apply for an Overseas Launch Certificate  
[http://www.space.gov.au/SpaceLicensingSafetyOffice/Documents/OLC\\_Guidelines\\_08\\_05\\_2013.pdf](http://www.space.gov.au/SpaceLicensingSafetyOffice/Documents/OLC_Guidelines_08_05_2013.pdf)