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Space Legislation in Japan

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Outline

I Path to the two national space acts

II Space Activities Act (2016)

III Satellite Remote Sensing Data Act (2016)


VI Conclusion

I. Path to the two national space acts

2008 Space Basic Act Art. 35 requests that space activities act(s) be established.

January 2015 3rd Space Basic Plan (Art. 24 of the Space Basic Act) requested two space acts be adopted.



Bills were submitted in March 2016  promulgated on 16 November 2016

entered into force :	Remote Sensing Data Act	15 November 2017
	Space Activities Act	15 November 2018

II. Act on launching of spacecraft, etc. and control of spacecraft (Space Activities Act)

1 purposes the Space Activities Act (SAA)

1) implement international space law

2) public safety  TPL (allocation of risk)

3) improvement of the life of the citizens as well as development of the economy and society (promotion of space business)

2 Two kinds of authorization: Who needs authorization for what?

A. Launching of spacecraft, etc.	B. Control of spacecraft
“spacecraft” = objects placed into the Earth orbit or beyond “spacecraft, etc.” = spacecraft and rocket suborbital object is excluded	“Spacecraft control facility” = facility receiving electromagnetic waves from the spacecraft and sending a signal to the spacecraft for Telemetry, Tracking and Control (TT&C)
A person who intends to launch spacecraft, etc. from launch sites in Japan (incl. ships and aircraft with Japanese nationality)/per launch	A person who intends to control spacecraft using a spacecraft control facility located in Japan /per spacecraft

* strictly territorial jurisdiction

3 Requirements for the permission of the launch of

spacecraft, etc. (launch = from ignition (when the action becomes irreversible) to the separation of spacecraft from a rocket)

permission is granted by the Prime Minister

If type certification and compliance certification are obtained in advance from the Prime Minister, review process will be facilitated.

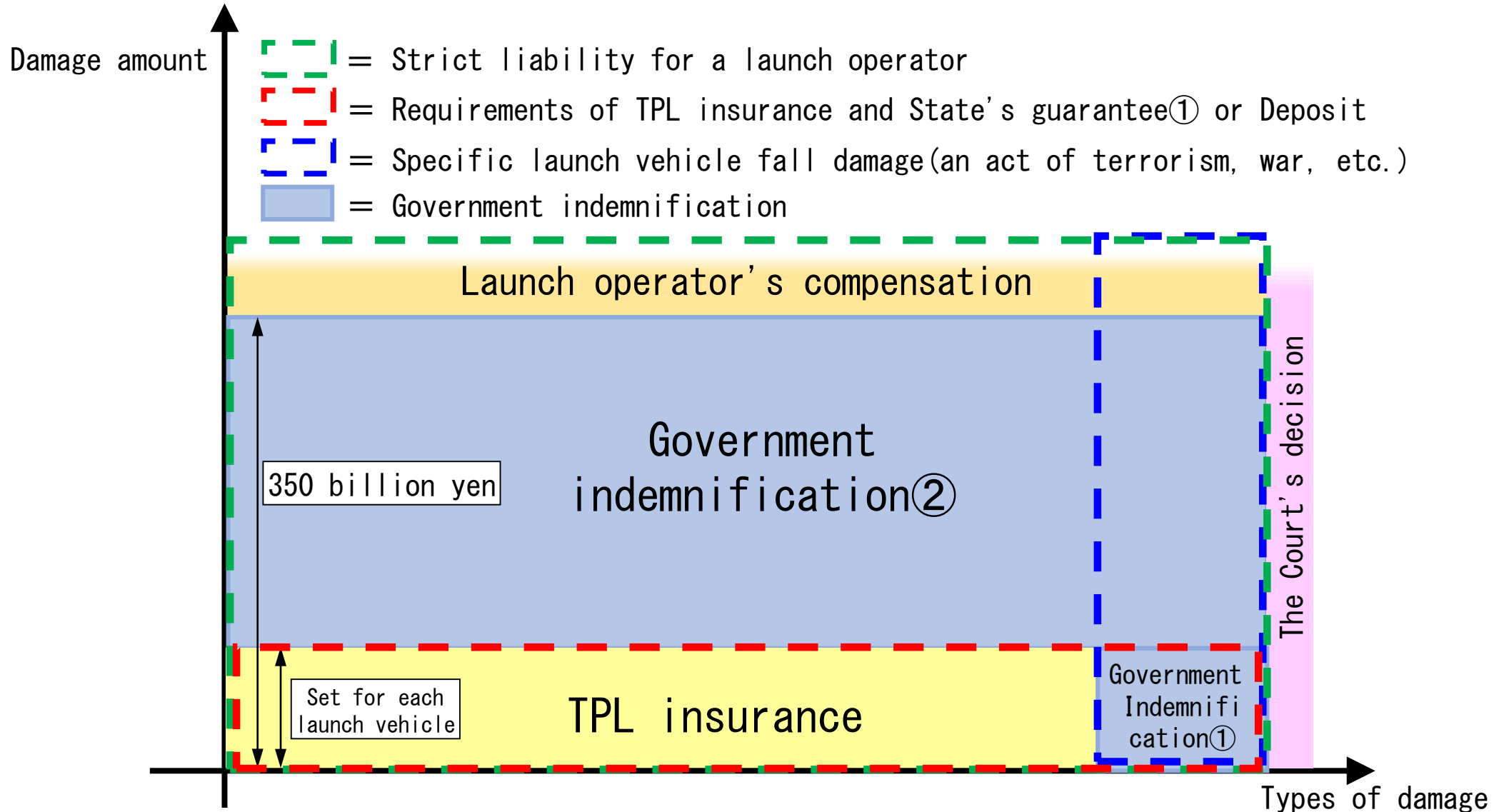
	Certification	review per application, etc.
Rocket safety	Type certification (or foreign certification)	Review for a new type of rocket if it meets rocket safety standard
Launch site safety	Compliance certification	review for a specific site to be used if it meets specific site safety standard
Launch safety		Review of the launch plan
Spacecraft loaded on the rocket		Review of the purposes and methods of use of spacecraft loaded

4 TPL for spacecraft fall damage

- damage on the ground surface, on water surface, aircraft in flight or other flying objects by rocket + spacecraft (whole or parts), or by rocket only (after all of the spacecraft have been successfully separated)
- strict liability
- channeling of liability for a launch operator
- launch operator shall obtain insurance or a deposit in an official depository up to certain amount which is specified by Cabinet Office Order
- if a natural disaster or other force majeure also contributed to the occurrence of the damage, the Court may determine the liabilities

(cont'd)

- Liability for Third Party's Damage on the surface of the Earth or to aircraft in flight caused by the launch



5 Requirements for the license for the control of spacecraft and liability for the licensee

Requirements for license

license is granted by the Prime Minister

1 purposes and methods of spacecraft

2 satisfy obligations based on Art. IX of the OST and relevant space debris mitigation measures

* contamination prevention; * collision avoidance; post-mission measures (GEO, LEO), etc.

- **strict liability** for the spacecraft fall damage on the ground

no obligations for obtaining insurance or other measures for demonstrating financial responsibility  no governmental support

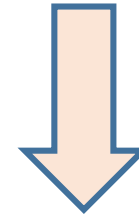
6 Transfer of control of spacecraft

When the spacecraft control facility of the transferee is located in Japan



Authorization from the Prime Minister is needed.

When the spacecraft control facility of the transferee is outside of Japan



Transferor shall make a **notification** to the Prime Minister to that effect in advance.

(cont'd) on-orbit transfer of control of spacecraft

transferee transferor	Japanese/located in Japan	Foreigner/ located in Japan	Japanese/located outside Japan	Foreigner/located outside Japan
Japanese/located in Japan	Authorization	Authorization	Notification	Notification
Foreigner/located in Japan	Authorization	Authorization	Notification	Notification
Japanese/located outside of Japan	New license	New license	No provision	No provision
Foreigner/located outside of Japan	New license	New license	No provision	No link with Japan

strictly territorial principle

III. Act on ensuring appropriate handling of satellite remote sensing data (Remote Sensing Data Act)

1 Purpose of the act to strike a balance between:

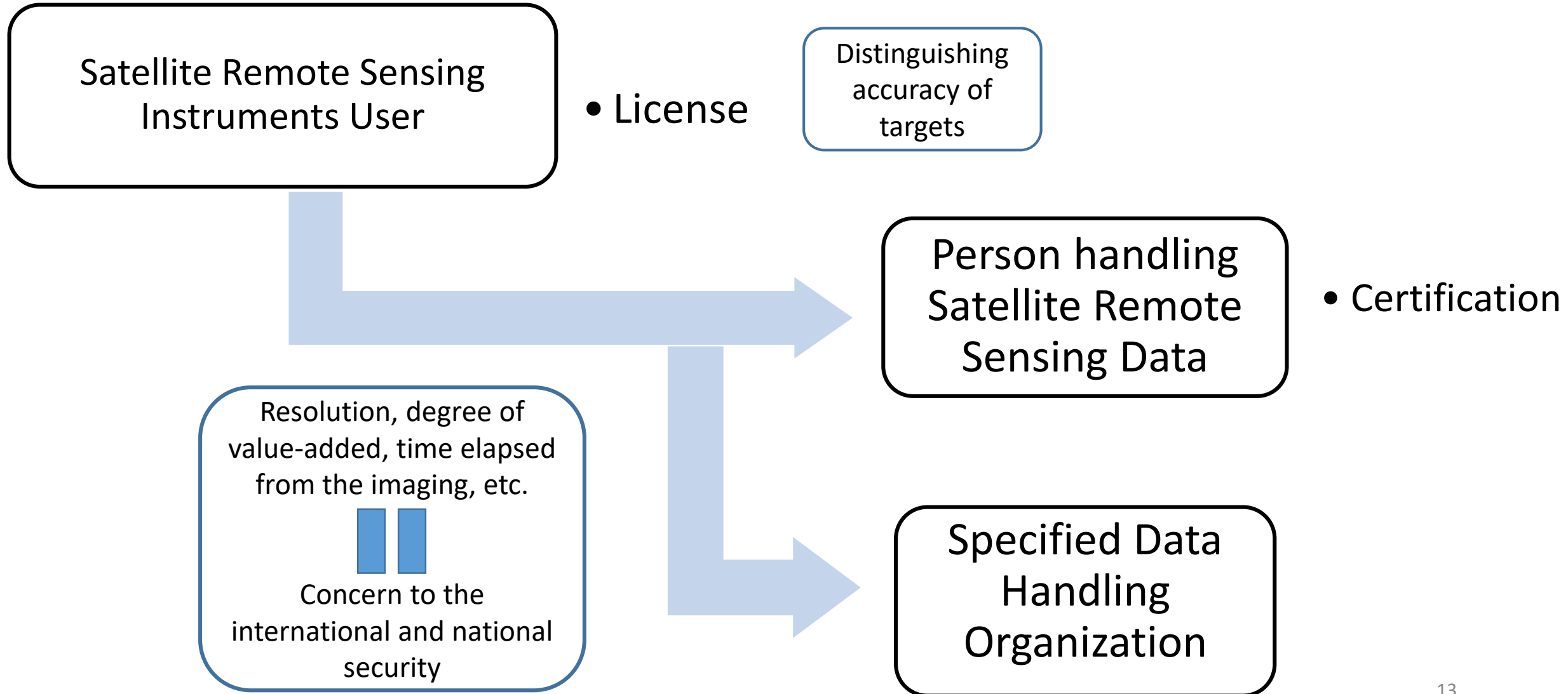
- (1) the promotion of data distribution services; and
- (2) to ensure international peace and security & national security of Japan

2 Who needs a license?

A person who intends to operate satellite remote sensing instruments with the capability of acquiring a **high-resolution image** using the ground radio station for command and control located (GRSCC) in Japan (incl. ships and aircraft with Japanese nationality)

Threshold: to detect the moving facilities (ships, aircraft and other vehicles) details are provided in the Cabinet Office Order

3 licensing schemes



4 order/request of non-provision of data

Prime Minister may order not to provide data:

- i) when international and national security is threatened
- ii) minimum extent necessity (specified scope of data and time period)
- iii) Foreign handler (domicile/residence/principal office outside Japan) is excluded from the prohibition

To foreign handlers, not an order but an request

Territorial principle

Is issued.

This directly contributes for space security

IV Final remarks

Non-official translation of the two acts and other relevant cabinet office orders etc. will be provided once they are ready.

Thank you so much for your kind attendtion.