

DENMARK

National mechanism:

The Danish Outer Space Act of 2016 (lov om aktiviteter i det ydre rum) entered into force on 1 July 2016 (Act no. 409 of 11 May 2016).

The Danish Executive Order on requirements in connection with approval of activities in outer space, etc. (bekendtgørelse om krav ved godkendelse af aktiviteter i det ydre rum m.v.) entered into force on 1 July 2016 (Executive Order no. 552 of 31 May 2016).

Description:

The Danish Outer Space Act and Executive Order on requirements in connection with approval of activities in outer space, etc. is the legal basis for Danish space activities.

Pursuant to section 6(1) no. 4 of the Act, approval of space activities requires that the operator has taken appropriate measures with regard to space debris management. Pursuant to section 6 of the Executive Order, the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (now the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education) may stipulate requirements that space activities which involve the launch of space objects into earth orbit meet relevant standards and guidelines for space debris management, such as standards published by the European Cooperation for Space Standardization (ECSS) or the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). As a general rule, within 25 years of the end date of the functional operating period of the space object, the space object must either safely leave its earth orbit again or safely be placed into an orbit where it is deemed not to constitute a danger to other space activities.

Applicability:

The Danish Outer Space Act and Executive Order apply to space activities carried out within the Danish State. Furthermore, the Act and Executive Order apply to space activities carried out outside the Danish State on Danish craft or facilities or by Danish operators.

Relation to international mechanisms:

The European Cooperation for Space Standardization (ECSS) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) are explicitly referred to in the Danish Executive Order on requirements in connection with approval of activities in outer space, etc. Other relevant standards and guidelines such as The Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines, the ITU Recommendation ITU-R S.1003 and European Code of Conduct for Space Debris Mitigation can also be taken into consideration.

Link to other national mechanisms:

None.

References:

- The Danish Outer Space Act (English translation):
<https://ufm.dk/en/legislation/prevailing-laws-and-regulations/outer-space/outer-space-act.pdf>
- The Danish Executive Order on requirements in connection with approval of activities in outer space, etc. (English translation):
<https://ufm.dk/en/legislation/prevailing-laws-and-regulations/outer-space/executive-order-on-requirements-in-connection-with-approval-of-activities-in-outer-space-etc-final.pdfm>
- Application form and guidelines:
<https://ufm.dk/forskning-og-innovation/indsatsomrader/rummet-og-danmark/rumloven/ansogning-om-rumaktivitet>