NASA Policy Directive

NPD 8610.6F
Effective Date: October 30, 2003
Expiration Date: October 30, 2009

COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY

Printable Format (PDF)

Request Notification of Change (NASA Only)

Subject: Graphic Markings on Space Transportation Vehicles, U.S. Components of the International Space Station Component Systems, and Payloads

Responsible Office: Space Operations Mission Directorate

1. POLICY

NASA's policy is to ensure that graphic markings on space vehicles, component systems, and payloads are simple, professional, effective for identification, standardized where practical, and, except as otherwise directed by the Administrator, do not advertise for commercial products. Markings and marking materials must conform to the guidelines and requirements contained in the reference documents listed in paragraph 4.

a. The rules governing the markings on the two classes of space transportation vehicles, reusable Space Shuttles and Expendable Launch Vehicles (ELV), are dictated by the various physical configurations, operational environments, and life expectancies of each.

(1) Existing and future Space Shuttle orbiters shall carry only the U.S. national colors, the words "United States" and/or "USA," the NASA Insignia, and its official name. No markings shall be permitted on solid rocket boosters or external tanks, except those markings that are required for identification, traceability, and safety.

(2) ELVs may carry one or more of a variety of markings, or remain unmarked, depending on the discretion of those funding the launches. The markings may include national colors, logotypes, trademarks, or similar symbols, and may be no larger than the diameter of the launch vehicle in both height and width.

b. U.S. components of the International Space Station (ISS) shall carry only the U.S. national colors, the words "United States," and/or "USA," the name of the given element, and the NASA Insignia.

c. Component systems provided by foreign governments or international agencies for the Space Shuttle or for the U.S. portions of the ISS may display the markings of their nations or agencies for noncommercial purposes, as their providers judge appropriate,

with the approval of the Associate Administrator for Space Flight. Examples of such are the Remote Manipulator System from Canada and the Spacelab from the European Space Agency.

d. Each element, system, and payload of the ISS provided by an International Partner (IP) may carry the providing IP's national colors, the name of the providing country, the name of the given element, and the insignia of that IP's cooperating agency. The ISS IPs shall submit the plans for their proposed markings to the Space Station Control Board (SSCB). The SSCB, with the support of the ISS Partners Public Affairs Office Working Group, shall review each proposed marking to confirm its compliance with the guidelines contained in ISS Partner Program Directive (ISSP-PPD-519), "ISS Program Guidelines for Graphic Markings on ISS Elements, Systems and Payloads."

e. Space payloads may display the markings of their NASA or non-NASA owners so that they can be identified while being filmed or videotaped in the payload bay, or in the ISS, or deployed in space. Payload markings may be designed as their owners judge appropriate, provided that they do not appear as advertising rather than identification. No markings will be approved if they contain any advertising other than the name of the owner or sponsor, interfere in any way with the mission, or may be considered to be unprofessional or inappropriate.

f. This policy does not restrict the use of markings necessary for safety (e.g., cautions and warnings).

2. APPLICABILITY

This NPD applies to NASA Headquarters and all NASA Centers, including Component Facilities.

3. AUTHORITY

42 U.S.C. 2473 (c) (1), The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, section 203 (c) (1).

4. APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

a. NPD 8710.3, NASA Policy for Limiting Orbital Debris Generation.

b. Agency Graphic Standards as authorized by NASA Headquarters Office of Public Affairs:

(1) NASA Insignia Graphics Standards, NP-212.

(2) Graphic Standards Manual (Shuttle and Space Flight Markings).

c. SSP 30233, "Space Station Requirements for Materials and Processes."

d. JSC-SE-R-006, "NASA JSC Requirements for Materials and Processes."

e. MSFC-STD-506, "Standard Materials and Processes Control."

f. 14 CFR Part 1221, subpart 1221.1, "NASA Seal, NASA Insignia, NASA Logotype, NASA Program Identifiers, NASA Flags, and the Agency's Unified Visual Communications System."

g. ISSP-PPD-519, "ISS Partner Program Directive," "ISS Program Guidelines for Graphic Markings on ISS Elements, Systems and Payloads."

5. RESPONSIBILITY

a. The Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs (or designee), as the manager of the Agency's Graphics Standards Program, is responsible for reviewing and approving all marking proposals and providing expert assistance for compliance with Agency Graphic Standards.

b. The Assistant Administrator for External Relations (or designee) shall review all marking proposals received from non-U.S. sources.

c. The Associate Administrator for Space Flight (or designee), is responsible for the approval, fabrication, and application of markings proposed by U.S. sources, to be applied to component systems of the Space Shuttle and the ISS, and for approval of markings proposed by U.S. sources for all payloads to be flown on the Space Shuttle and/or on the U.S. portions of the ISS.

d. The Associate Administrator for Space Flight (or designee) is responsible for the approval, fabrication, and application of markings proposed to be applied to ELVs and their component systems, and for approval of markings proposed for all payloads to be flown on ELVs.

e. Program Managers are responsible for submitting proposed markings to the appropriate review and approval authorities and for the fabrication and application of markings for all payloads that they sponsor.

f. All costs associated with the design, fabrication, or application of markings will be borne by their proponents unless accepted by NASA as part of a cooperative venture. Any claims arising from the use of markings will be the responsibility of their proponents.

g. Center Directors, through their respective Program Managers, shall ensure compliance with this policy. Center Directors shall ensure that any proposed deviations or waivers from the policy are referred to the Associate Administrator for Space Flight (or designee) for approval.

6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

None.

7. MEASUREMENTS

Compliance with this policy shall be measured through periodic evaluation of review and approval performance. The major areas to be measured are as follows:

a. The timeliness of proposed markings review action by the Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs for all markings submitted by all sources.

b. The timeliness of proposed markings review action by the Assistant Administrator for External Relations (or designee) for all proposed markings submitted by non-U.S. sources.

c. The timeliness of proposed markings review/approval action by the Associate

Administrator for Space Flight (or designee).

d. The timeliness of proposed markings review/approval/waiver action by the Associate Administrator for Space Flight (or designee).

8. CANCELLATION

NPD 8610.6E, dated July 12, 2002.

/s/ Sean O'Keefe
Administrator

ATTACHMENT A: (TEXT)

None.

(URL for Graphic)

None.

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