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NASA Procedural Requirements

COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY**NPR 8715.5A**Effective Date: September 17,
2010Expiration Date: January 17,
2017[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)[Request Notification of Change](#) (NASA Only)

Subject: Range Flight Safety Program (updated with Change 2)

Responsible Office: Office of Safety and Mission Assurance[| TOC](#) | [ChangeHistory](#) | [Preface](#) | [Chapter1](#) | [Chapter2](#) | [Chapter3](#) | [AppendixA](#) | [AppendixB](#) | [ALL](#) |

Chapter 2. Unique Range Safety Policies and Requirements

2.1 Introduction

Unique range safety policies and requirements may apply to range operations depending on the location of the operation or the participation of other entities. This chapter identifies unique range safety policies and requirements for range operations that involve commercial launch and entry service providers, the National Airspace System, and participation by foreign entities.

2.2 Commercial Launch and Entry

2.2.1 The FAA has the authority to authorize and supervise commercial space transportation activities conducted in the United States (by U.S and non-U.S. citizens) or by a U.S. citizen (conducting activities inside or outside the United States). Specifically, the FAA licenses commercial launch and entry operations and the operation of commercial launch sites. A NASA program may involve any combination of licensed or unlicensed space transportation activities. For example, a licensed commercial launch may take place from a licensed site operator, or from a NASA or DoD range which does not require a site operator license. Conversely, a Government launch that is not licensed by the FAA may take place from a site operated under an FAA license. The FAA licensing regulations are contained in 14 CFR Parts 400-1199, Commercial Space Transportation.

2.2.2 A NASA launch or entry does not require an FAA license if the activity is conducted by or for NASA and NASA is so substantially involved that it effectively directs or controls the activity. For a NASA (non-FAA licensed) launch or entry, the NASA program shall:

- a. Supervise the activities of each contractor providing a launch or entry service by approval of requirements and ongoing involvement with the contractor (Requirement).
- b. Ensure that a Government organization directly oversees and performs the range safety function during the activity (Requirement).

2.2.3 A NASA program may require FAA licensing for commercial ventures funded by NASA or a commercial launch or entry carrying a NASA payload (as a primary customer).

Note: NASA programs should weigh the benefits of FAA licensing vs. the benefits of conducting operations under NASA range/public safety authority as applicable to each program's specific mission needs.

2.2.4 A NASA program shall require FAA licensing for any launch or entry where there is no Government organization directly overseeing and performing the range safety function during the activity (Requirement).

Note: FAA licensed launches and entries are subject to FAA procedural and technical requirements contained in 14 CFR "Parts 400-1199" Commercial Space Transportation. The FAA regulations in 14 CFR "Part 101" may apply to government and commercial suborbital launch activities not conducted in restricted airspace. An FAA-licensed launch or entry or a launch conducted under a 14 CFR Part 101 Waiver carrying a NASA payload

or otherwise supporting a NASA mission does not constitute a NASA range operation and is not subject to the requirements contained in this NPR unless the activity is conducted under the responsibility of a NASA range safety organization (e.g., an FAA-licensed launch from the Wallops Flight Facility). In such cases NASA will coordinate with the FAA to ensure all applicable range safety requirements are satisfied.

2.3 National Airspace System

This paragraph applies to each NASA program that uses the National Airspace System during conduct of a range operation.

2.3.1 A NASA program shall coordinate with the FAA on each range operation that uses the National Airspace System (Requirement).

2.3.2 A NASA program shall obtain a Certificate of Authorization or Waiver (COA) from the FAA for each UAS operation within the National Airspace System outside of authorized Special Use Airspace (Requirement).

2.3.3 A NASA program shall coordinate the required information with range safety personnel prior to submitting the request to the FAA center(s) with authority over the planned areas of operation (Requirement).

2.4 Foreign Participation in NASA Range Operations

A foreign entity may participate in a NASA range operation within the United States or at a foreign location. A NASA range operation may involve the use of a foreign range or airspace, for example, as an alternate landing site, primary landing site, contingency landing site, or the site of a launch or environmental research mission.

2.4.1 Foreign participation in any NASA range operation shall require prior coordination with the NASA Office of International and Interagency Relations and be conducted in accordance with this NPR; NPD 1360.2, Initiation and Development of International Cooperation in Space and Aeronautics Programs; and NPD 1050.1, Authority To Enter Into Space Act Agreements (Requirement).

2.4.2 Foreign participation in any NASA range operation which requires access to NASA Installations or Facilities shall also be conducted in accordance with paragraph 2.4.1 of this NPR; NPR 1371.2, Procedural Requirements for Processing Requests for Access to NASA Installations or Facilities by Foreign Nationals or U.S. Citizens Who are Representatives of Foreign Entities; and/or NPD 1371.5, Coordination and Authorization of Access by Foreign Nationals and Foreign Representatives to NASA (Requirement).

2.4.3 Placing a NASA payload and/or NASA astronaut on a foreign vehicle that is operated under a foreign government range/public safety authority does not constitute a NASA range operation. Such activities are not subject to this NPR unless specified by the applicable contract or agreement. This NPR does apply if such an activity is not performed under a foreign government range safety authority.

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