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Second edition
2021-04

Space systems — Space debris mitigation design and operation manual for launch vehicle orbital stages

Systèmes spatiaux — Lignes directrices de conception et de manœuvre des étages orbitaux de lanceurs pour réduire les débris spatiaux



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Contents

	Page
Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Symbols and abbreviated terms	1
5 System-level activities	2
5.1 General.....	2
5.2 Design for limiting the release of objects.....	3
5.2.1 Intents of requirements in ISO 24113.....	3
5.2.2 Work breakdown.....	3
5.2.3 Identification of released objects and design measures.....	4
5.2.4 Monitoring during operation.....	5
5.2.5 Preventing failure.....	5
5.3 Break-up prevention.....	5
5.3.1 Break-up caused by intentional behaviour, or stored energy.....	5
5.3.2 Avoidance of collision.....	7
5.4 Disposal manoeuvres at the end of operation.....	7
5.4.1 Intents of requirements in ISO 24113.....	7
5.4.2 Work breakdown.....	8
5.4.3 LEO mission.....	8
5.4.4 GEO missions and other high-elliptical orbit missions.....	9
5.5 Ground safety from re-entering objects.....	10
5.5.1 Intents of requirements in ISO 24113.....	10
5.5.2 Work breakdown.....	10
5.5.3 Preventive measures.....	11
5.5.4 Risk detection: notification.....	13
5.5.5 Countermeasures: controlled re-entry and monitoring.....	13
5.6 Reliability and QA.....	13
6 Debris-related work in the development life cycle	13
6.1 General.....	13
6.2 Concept of debris-related work in each phase.....	13
6.3 Mission requirements analysis phase (pre-phase A).....	18
6.3.1 General.....	18
6.3.2 Debris-related works.....	18
6.4 Feasibility phase (phase A).....	18
6.5 Definition phase (phase B).....	18
6.5.1 Work in phase B.....	18
6.5.2 Work procedure.....	19
6.6 Development phase (phase C).....	19
6.7 Production phase (phase D).....	20
6.7.1 Work in phase D.....	20
6.7.2 Qualification review.....	20
6.7.3 Launch service.....	20
6.8 Utilization phase (phase E).....	20
6.9 Disposal phase (phase F).....	20
7 System-level information	21
7.1 System design.....	21
7.2 Mission analysis for each launch mission.....	21
8 Subsystem/Component design and operation	22
8.1 General.....	22

This is a preview of "ISO/TR 20590:2021". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

8.1.1	Scope	22
8.1.2	Debris-mitigation measures and subsystem-level actions for realizing them	22
8.2	Propulsion subsystem.....	23
8.2.1	Debris-related design	23
8.2.2	Information of propulsion subsystems	23
8.2.3	Information of component design.....	25
8.3	Guidance and control subsystem	26
8.3.1	Debris-related designs.....	26
8.3.2	Information of the guidance and control subsystem.....	27
8.4	Electric power-supply subsystem	27
8.4.1	Debris related design	27
8.4.2	Information of power subsystems.....	27
8.4.3	Information of component design.....	28
8.5	Communication subsystem	28
8.5.1	Debris-related designs.....	28
8.5.2	Design of communication subsystem	28
8.5.3	Information of component design.....	29
8.6	Structure subsystem	29
8.6.1	Design measures.....	29
8.6.2	Practices for structure subsystem	29
8.6.3	Information of component design.....	30
8.7	Range safety subsystem (self-destruct subsystem)	30
8.7.1	Debris-related designs.....	30
8.7.2	Information of command destruction subsystem.....	30
8.7.3	Information of component design.....	30
Bibliography		31

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 20, *Aircraft and space vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 14, *Space systems and operations*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/TR 20590:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- text has been updated to be aligned with ISO 24113:2019;
- information has been added that the total number of structural elements and orbital stages is limited according to the number of payloads;
- information has been added that the ejection of slag debris from solid rocket motors is limited newly in low Earth orbit in addition to GEO previously;
- information relating to collision avoidance against catalogued space objects has been improved;
- corresponding to the new requirement limiting the total probability of successful disposal to be at least 0,9, the state of the art to confirm the compliance with that taken in the world space industries and national agencies has been added;
- other information relating to the changes in ISO 24113 has been added.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Coping with debris is essential to preventing the deterioration of the orbital environment and ensuring the sustainability of space activities. Effective actions can also be taken to ensure the safety of those on the ground from re-entering objects that were disposed of from Earth orbit.

Recently, the orbital environment has become so deteriorated by debris that it is necessary to take actions to mitigate the generation of orbital debris in design and operation of both spacecraft and the launch vehicle orbital stages.

ISO 24113 and other ISO documents, introduced in Bibliography, were developed to encourage debris mitigation activities.

In [Clause 5](#), information about the major space debris mitigation requirements is provided.

In [Clause 6](#), information about life-cycle implementation of space-debris-mitigation-related activities is provided.

In [Clause 7](#), the system level aspects stemming from the space debris mitigation requirements are highlighted; while in [Clause 8](#), the impacts at subsystem and component levels are detailed.

This document provides comprehensive information on the requirements and recommendations from ISO documents for the design and operation of the launch vehicles.