
Space systems — Safety requirements —

Part 2:

Launch site operations

Systèmes spatiaux — Exigences de sécurité —

Partie 2: Opérations sur le site de lancement

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO 14620 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 14620-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 20, *Aircraft and space vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 14, *Space systems and operations*.

ISO 14620 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Space systems — Safety requirements*:

- *Part 1: System safety*
- *Part 2: Launch site operations*

Annex A of this part of ISO 14620 is for information only.

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Introduction

Space activities, carried out within the framework of outer space treaties adopted by the United Nations, may cause harm to people and create damage to public and private property and the environment. The variety of professional disciplines linked to space activities and the legal liabilities incumbent on countries require international regulations to protect Earth populations against the consequences of a possible mishap caused by these activities. International treaties, listed in annex A, define the liabilities for damage related to space activities.

This part of ISO 14620 affects exposed people (including populations and personnel), launch systems, manned or unmanned space vehicles, operations carried out on or from a launch site and associated procedures, natural environment, etc., during prelaunch (integration, test, checking, preparation, etc.) and launch activities.

This part of ISO 14620 is intended to be applied by any country, by any international organization, whether governmental or non-governmental, and by any operator, undertaking space activities within the framework of outer space treaties adopted by the United Nations.

This part of ISO 14620 is intended to be applied by agency, enterprise, manufacturer, customer, designer, operator, facility authority, launch service provider, etc., participating in the activities carried out on or from a launch site, unless more restrictive requirements are imposed by the national regulations in effect on the launch site.

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Space systems — Safety requirements —

Part 2: Launch site operations

1 Scope

This part of ISO 14620 concerns the safety liabilities for countries undertaking space activities or allowing operators to perform space activities on or from their territory under outer space treaties adopted by the United Nations. It defines the safety responsibilities for the operators involved in commercial or non-commercial space launch activities. This part of ISO 14620 establishes the overall safety requirements to be observed on a launch site for prelaunch (integration, test, checking, preparation, etc.) and launch operations of a space object. It provides the basic principles to enable any operator to implement its own safety methods, tools, and procedures, to ensure the safety of people and personnel, public and private property, and the environment, in a consistent and uniform manner.

2 Normative reference

The following normative document contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 14620. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 14620 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the normative document indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 8402, *Quality management and quality assurance — Vocabulary*.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 14620, the terms and definitions given in ISO 8402 and the following apply.

3.1

acceptable risk

safety risk, the severity and the probability of which may be reasonably accepted by humanity, without durable or irreversible foreseeable consequence on health, Earth, and the environment, at the present time and in the future

EXAMPLE A safety risk may be acceptable for crew members of a manned space vehicle when it is comparable to the one for test pilots, for the personnel participating in hazardous activities when it is comparable to the one for industrial workers, for people, public and private property, and the environment, when it is comparable to the one of the other hazardous human activities (e.g. high speed surface travel).

3.2

authorization

any permission granted to an operator by a responsible authority to perform specified space activities

NOTE Space activities include conducting space operations, conducting launch operations, operating one or more sites, operating one or more space vehicles, on or from one or more launch sites.

3.3

damage

loss of human life, personal injury or other health impairments, occupational illness, total or partial loss of public or private property, or degradations caused to the aforesaid property or to the environment

3.4
dangerous area
area associated with a mishap or a potential mishap inside which the consequences are catastrophic or critical

3.5
failure
termination of the ability of an item to perform the function for which it was designed

3.6
flight plan
plan related to the inflight launch vehicle including data directly or indirectly concerning the launch site safety

3.7
flight safety
all the arrangements intended to control safety risks from launch through the flight of a space object, and to protect people, public and private property, and the environment, against any damage that may possibly be caused by in-flight manoeuvres of this space object

3.8
ground safety
all the arrangements intended to minimize and control safety risks identified in ground prelaunch and launch activities of a manned or unmanned space vehicle

NOTE Arrangements include protecting people, public and private property, and the environment and completing and adjusting the national regulatory laws related to occupational safety and health, workers, environment, space, etc.

3.9
hazard
existing or potential condition of an item that can result in a mishap

NOTE This condition can be associated with the design, fabrication, operation, or environment of the item, and has the potential for mishaps.

3.10
hazardous
property of an item and its environment which provides it the potential for mishaps

3.11
inhibit, noun
verifiable design feature intended to prevent a hazardous situation from occurring, that provides an interruption between an energy source and a function actuator

EXAMPLE An inhibit can be a function, a product, a hardware, a software, a physical property, or a technological device.

3.12
item
anything which can be individually described and considered

EXAMPLE An item may be an activity, an operation, a process, a procedure; a product, a system; an organization, a person, or any combination thereof.

3.13
launch
initial action to place, or attempt to place, a launch vehicle and payload, if any, in a suborbital trajectory, in Earth orbit in outer space, or otherwise in outer space

3.14
launch complex
site assigned to or owned by a launch vehicle operator to operate a launch vehicle

3.15**launch phase**

begins when the launch vehicle is no longer in physical contact with the launch complex that made its preparation and ignition possible (or when the launch vehicle is dropped from the carrier-aircraft, if any), and continues up to the end of the mission assigned to the launch vehicle

NOTE The launch phase ends when the launch vehicle has achieved an Earth orbit or an interplanetary trajectory or, if not, when it is in physical contact with the ground again.

3.16**launch site**

all the sites necessary for the prelaunch and launch operations of space vehicle and for the inflight operations during the launch phase

3.17**launch site country**

country that has jurisdiction over a specified launch site

3.18**launch system**

system made up of a launch vehicle, the associated launch complex, the launch site, payload, ground support equipment and associated airborne equipment (including software), control systems, navigation system, trajectories, procedures, necessary personnel, and any other associated items

3.19**launch vehicle**

any vehicle constructed for the purpose of operating in outer space, or placing one or more payloads in outer space, as well as any suborbital rocket

3.20**mishap
accident**

unplanned event or series of events resulting in damage or potential for damage

NOTE In terms of safety, mishap is a synonym of accident.

3.21**national regulatory laws**

set of official statutes of a country, including constitution, law, decree, administrative order, code, regulation, etc.

3.22**operation**

technical, industrial, or implementing activity, or any combination of such activities, performed by one or more entities for the purpose of contributing to a specified objective

3.23**operator**

any citizen of a nation in which he is performing space activities, or any organization existing under the laws of a nation or under an international governmental agreement in order to perform space activities or any worker of such an organization when it is duly authorized by this organization

3.24**payload**

space vehicle or group of space vehicles on a single launch vehicle intended to perform a specified function or series of functions

3.25**residual safety risk**

safety risk associated with the hazards and/or hazardous situations remaining in a space system after eliminating hazards and hazardous situations as much as practical, and reducing the unacceptable safety risks

3.26

responsible authority

ministry, department, agency, subsection, or office of a government or international governmental organization, which is responsible for space activities including, but not limited to, launch operations in a specified location or country

3.27

risk

quantitative or qualitative measure for the severity of a potential damage and the probability of incurring that damage

3.28

safe

property of an item and its environment which limit its potential for damage to an acceptable risk

3.29

safety

all the arrangements intended to control safety risks stemming from activities contributing to the flight of a manned or unmanned space object, in order to ensure the protection of people, public and private property, and the environment, against any damage caused by these activities to the surface of Earth or to aircraft inflight, or in atmospheric or outer space

3.30

safety risk

measure of the potential consequences of a hazard (e.g. expected number of casualties) considering the probability of the associated mishap, the harm caused to people, and the damage caused to public and private property and the environment

NOTE The safety risk is defined to be differentiated from political, financial, industrial, project, and other risks.

3.31

site

land, ground/airborne/marine facilities, equipment, utilities, and infrastructure assigned to or owned by an operator on a launch site

3.32

space object

space vehicle of artificial earthly origin and any of its component parts, except space debris, if any

3.33

space vehicle

any manned or unmanned vehicle constructed or assembled for the purpose of manoeuvring, moving, operating, or being placed in outer space

NOTE A space vehicle can be a launcher, a rocket, a payload, a space capsule, a space shuttle, a space plane, a space station, etc., or any assembled combination thereof.

3.34

system

set of interdependent items constituted to achieve a given objective by performing a specified function

3.35

waiver

written and duly signed authorization given on an occasional, exceptional, provisional, and limited basis, relative to the acceptance of a hazardous item that does not comply with the applicable safety regulations or rules

4 Operator's safety responsibilities

4.1 Introduction

The following subclauses define the general allocation of the safety responsibilities and requirements for the pre-launch (integration, test, checking, preparation, etc.) and launch operations related to a launch system. It is understood, in this part of ISO 14620, that each operator is either duly authorized or entered into an appropriate contract (specific agreement, commercial contract, etc.) with a responsible authority or an authorized operator. Several operators, e.g. launch site operator, site operator, launch vehicle operator or payload operator, can operate simultaneously on the same launch site. They can be concerned either with the same launch system or with different systems.

4.2 Occupational safety and health

Any operator carrying out operations on a launch site shall respect and apply the national occupational safety and health regulations of the launch site country.

4.3 Ground and environment safety

4.3.1 Ground safety operator

Ground safety responsibilities and requirements vary among operators. Generally, the different operators should determine themselves how safety concerns should be met. However, on the same launch site, the following conditions or criteria may exist.

- a) Several operators can carry out hazardous operations simultaneously.
- b) Hazardous operations can cause harm to personnel or damage to private or public property (external to the launch site facilities) or the environment.
- c) Hazardous operations carried out by one operator can cause personnel harm or property damage to another operator.
- d) Some hazardous operations are performed by several operators.

Therefore, ground safety responsibilities and requirements shall be allocated between a specific operator selected from all the authorized operators, the ground safety operator in this part of ISO 14620, and other operators carrying out prelaunch (integration, test, checking, preparation, etc.) or launch operations on the launch site.

4.3.2 Ground safety operator responsibilities

The ground safety operator shall be approved by the national responsible authority of the launch site country to perform the activities related to its ground safety responsibilities.

Some ground safety responsibilities are general enough to be specified in this part of ISO 14620. The ground safety operator shall be responsible for:

- a) identifying, supervising, and coordinating the allocation of ground safety responsibilities and requirements among the operators;
- b) specifying ground safety rules to be applied by the operators meeting one or more of the previous criteria (as described in 4.3.1) associated with the hazardous operations;
- c) verifying the application of the specified rules;
- d) approving the schedule of hazardous operations meeting one or more of the previous criteria (as described in 4.3.1);
- e) reviewing and approving the procedures of hazardous operations meeting one or more of the previous criteria b), c), and d) described in 4.3.1;

- f) supervising and coordinating hazardous operations meeting one or more of the previous criteria (as described in 4.3.1);
- g) verifying the emergency plans of the operators performing hazardous operations meeting one or more of the previous criteria (as described in 4.3.1) are consistent and in accordance with the approved emergency procedures;
- h) defining the general safety training (as required in 6.6.2);
- i) verifying and ensuring the safety training of each operator is consistent and homogeneous with all the other training;
- j) implementing resolutions for conflicts arising among the operators from hazardous operations;
- k) coordinating with, and notifying local government authorities, as appropriate, on all matters affecting public safety and environmental protection;
- l) reporting of any incident or accident to affected authorities (including local government authorities), and participating in mishaps investigations and findings documentation;
- m) communicating the safety lessons learned to the other operators;
- n) setting up a ground safety organization capable of performing ground safety responsibilities;
- o) developing and maintaining a consistent environmental safety policy which meets the regulatory requirements of the launch site country.

4.3.3 Operator responsibilities

Each operator (e.g. launch site operator, specific site operator, launch vehicle operator, payload operator, etc.) on a launch site shall be responsible for:

- a) protecting personnel, property and the environment from any damage caused by its own hazardous items;
- b) applying the ground safety rules issued from the ground safety operator;
- c) developing, implementing, maintaining, taking into account, and abiding by its own ground safety rules, consistent with the other ground safety rules and the applicable national regulations (occupational safety and health, workers, environment, space, etc.);
- d) accepting the allocation of the appropriate ground safety responsibilities from the ground safety operator;
- e) defining and implementing the associated ground safety arrangements that ensure the ground safety risks inherent in its operations are compatible with the stated safety objectives (as required in 5.3) and are safely controlled;
- f) identifying the hazards and hazardous situations and assessing the associated ground safety risks by performing hazard analysis on its space vehicles, sites, and operations, and eliminating the hazards and hazardous situations or reducing the unacceptable ground safety risks;
- g) managing the residual ground safety risks inherent in its space vehicles, sites, and operations (including procedures and personnel) to achieve safe operations;
- h) performing the necessary functions to ensure safe operations;
- i) developing, verifying, implementing, and maintaining an emergency plan for the mishaps which can occur during its own hazardous operations;
- j) participating in mishap investigations as required by ground or flight safety operator;
- k) defining and providing the specific safety training by site (as required in 6.6.3) related to its operations;
- l) verifying any worker has a valid safety accreditation (as required in 6.6.5) before beginning any hazardous operation;
- m) setting up a ground safety organization capable of performing its ground safety responsibilities.

If the ground safety rules of a launch site and the occupational safety and health regulations of the country of a foreign operator performing space activities on this launch site are in conflict, then the former takes precedence over the latter for this operator and its workers participating in activities carried out on or from the launch site. However, excep-

tion can be made for some specific cases duly accepted by the suitable national responsible authority of the launch site country.

Ground safety rules of an operator performing space activities on or from a launch site may exceed the launch site country's own occupational safety and health regulations.

4.4 Flight safety

4.4.1 Flight safety operator

The allocation of the flight safety responsibilities and requirements among various operators may vary. However, on the same launch site, the flight safety responsibilities and requirements shall be allocated only between a specific authorized operator, the flight safety operator in this part of ISO 14620, and each space vehicle operator carrying out prelaunch (integration, test, checking, preparation, etc.) or launch operations on the launch site.

4.4.2 Flight safety operator responsibilities

The flight safety operator shall be approved by the national responsible authority of the launch site country to perform inflight safety activities related to its responsibilities during the launch phase of a space vehicle.

Some flight safety responsibilities are general enough to be stated in this part of ISO 14620. The flight safety operator shall be responsible for:

- a) protecting personnel, property, and the environment from damage that may arise from a space vehicle (whether manned or unmanned) during its launch phase;
- b) minimizing the flight safety risks during the launch phase of a space vehicle;
- c) developing and maintaining the flight safety rules to be applied to each space vehicle, consistent with the national regulatory laws (health, environment, space, etc.) and the concerned ground safety rules;
- d) allocating, in accordance with the concerned space vehicle operators, the flight safety responsibilities and requirements;
- e) developing, implementing, maintaining, taking into account, and abiding by its own flight safety rules to be applied during the launch phase;
- f) defining and implementing the associated flight safety arrangements, facilities, and equipment that ensure the flight safety risks are compatible with the stated safety objectives (as required in 5.3) and are safely controlled;
- g) identifying the hazards and hazardous situations and assessing the associated flight safety risks by performing hazard analysis on these arrangements, facilities, equipment, and intended operations and eliminating the hazards and hazardous situations or reducing the unacceptable flight safety risks;
- h) managing the residual flight safety risks inherent in the launch phase;
- i) verifying and ensuring the space vehicle operators apply the specified flight safety rules and abide by their own flight safety rules;
- j) approving the onboard flight safety equipment specified by the space vehicle operators;
- k) approving the flight plan of a launch vehicle, including nominal and dispersed trajectories;
- l) contributing to developing, verifying, and implementing the emergency plans related to the launch phase;
- m) reporting of any incident or accident to affected authorities (including local government authorities), and participating in mishaps investigating and findings documenting;
- n) communicating the safety lessons learned to other operators;
- o) setting up a flight safety organization capable of performing its flight safety responsibilities.

4.4.3 Space vehicle operator responsibilities

For the launch phase each space vehicle operator (e.g. launch vehicle operator, payload operator) shall be responsible for:

- a) developing, implementing, maintaining, taking into account, and abiding by its own flight safety rules to be applied to its space vehicle, consistent with the flight safety operator rules;
- b) accepting the allocation of the appropriate flight safety responsibilities from the flight safety operator;
- c) defining and implementing the associated flight safety arrangements and onboard equipment that ensure the flight safety risks are compatible with the stated safety objectives (as required in 5.3), and allow the flight safety operator to ensure the flight safety risks will be safely controlled;
- d) submitting these arrangements and equipment to the flight safety operator for approval;
- e) submitting the flight plan of its launch vehicle, including nominal and dispersed trajectories, to the flight safety operator for approval;
- f) applying the flight safety rules specified by the flight safety operator;
- g) identifying the hazards and hazardous situations and assessing the associated flight safety risks by performing hazard analysis on its space vehicle and intended operations, and eliminating the hazards and hazardous situations or reducing the unacceptable flight safety risks;
- h) participating in mishap investigations as required by the ground or flight safety operator.

5 Launch safety requirements

5.1 Safety risk expressions

General launch safety requirements are both qualitative and quantitative expressions of safety risk associated with each mishap that can occur during the prelaunch (integration, test, checking, preparation, etc.) and launch operations of a space vehicle. They include:

- a) description of the consequences of the mishap (hazard severity);
- b) probability of the mishap occurring, regarded as being the maximum acceptable value (risk probability);
- c) qualitative prevention rules to avoid mishap.

5.2 Severity classes

The consequences of hazards are ordered in severity classes, which shall include:

- a) catastrophic hazard: taking into account, as a minimum, the loss of human life as the first priority;
- b) critical hazard: taking into account, as a minimum, serious injury as the first priority, but not life-threatening injury.

5.3 Quantitative safety objectives

The quantitative safety objective is the maximum value of the acceptable safety risk. The quantitative safety objectives of hazardous systems with catastrophic or critical hazard related to a launch site should be established by the national responsible authority of the launch site country or by its authorized operators. These objectives, if any, shall be compliant with the international and national regulations.

During the launch phase of a space vehicle, the inflight safety objective for the exposed ground population and property should be established to achieve the lowest practicable level of safety risk. This objective should be comparable to the objective defined for other hazardous human activities (e.g. civil air transport), if any, and should allow the flight safety operator to define and implement the arrangements, facilities, and equipment necessary to control the flight safety risks in the safest manner.

5.4 Qualitative safety principles

5.4.1 The main objective of safety rules is to ensure that ground safety and flight safety, during hazardous activities carried out on or from a launch site, protect human life as the first priority.

5.4.2 In the event of emergency, the launch-site uninvolved personnel (ground personnel, inflight aircraft personnel, etc.) shall be protected before the personnel on a manned space vehicle.

5.4.3 Any hazardous item operated or used on or from a launch site shall be analysed to identify hazards and hazardous situations as well as assess associated safety risks.

5.4.4 In order to prevent mishaps, inhibits shall be introduced into hazardous systems operated on or from a launch site. The inhibits preventing the same mishap shall be independent (that means that no single failure can eliminate more than one of them) and of a different kind. The procedures shall be designed so that these inhibits cannot be removed simultaneously by a single command, a single failure, or a common environment.

5.4.5 In hazardous systems operated on or from a launch site, no single failure (hardware failure, software error, etc.) shall generate a hazard or a hazardous situation the consequences of which are catastrophic or critical; no combination of two failures (hardware failures, software errors, etc.) shall generate a hazard or a hazardous situation the consequences of which are catastrophic.

5.4.6 Before a decision relative to a hazardous item is made by the suitable authority (responsible authority, operator, space program or project, etc.), and before this item is operated or used on or from a launch site, the concerned ground and/or flight safety organization shall be consulted for proposals that can possibly reduce safety risk.

5.4.7 When a safety risk associated with a hazardous activity carried out on or from a launch site is accepted by the responsible authority or the authorized operator, and as long as its level remains compatible with the corresponding safety objectives, the concerned safety organization should contribute its skills and assistance in defining the necessary measures to control the accepted safety risk.

5.4.8 A file shall be maintained on site providing the specifications of all hazardous materials being used during launch site processing; this requirement shall not override or eliminate any applicable statutory requirements for the workers protection, but may complement such a program.

5.5 Qualitative ground safety principles

5.5.1 At each time of a hazardous operation performed on a site or a launch site, only one operator shall be responsible for the associated ground safety operations.

5.5.2 Each operator organization shall allow its ground safety organization to be operationally independent of the organization performing hazardous operations on a site or a launch site. This independence shall be guaranteed by the concerned operator safety rules.

5.5.3 If an operational decision may create a hazard or a hazardous situation on a site, a launch site, or the environment, or increase a safety risk incompatible with the safety objectives, the concerned safety organization shall oppose the decision and, if necessary, inform the manager of the site to whom it is answerable and the ground safety operator; all operators should make every reasonable effort to resolve differences in advance in the planning process.

5.5.4 Any hazardous operation performed on a site or a launch site shall be designed to be performed with the minimum personnel present inside the corresponding dangerous area.

5.5.5 To control safety risk, the concerned ground safety organization shall have the delegated authority to:

- a) contribute to the design and development of a hazardous item that is to be transported to a site or a launch site to ensure compliance with the specified safety rules;
- b) be informed of launch site follow-up activities to identify the tasks requiring safety resolution;

- c) evaluate hazard analysis and safety allocations on all new or modified items that may possibly cause damage to a site, a launch site, or the environment;
- d) approve the launch safety process (described in clause 6) before beginning hazardous operations;
- e) interrupt a hazardous operation performed on a site or a launch site and maintain the halt until the system complies with the stated safety objectives.

5.5.6 Any hazardous item that can produce nonionizing radiation or ionizing radiation and used on a site or a launch site shall have the authorization of the person responsible for radiation protection before transporting the item to the site or the launch site.

5.5.7 Minimization of stored quantities of hazardous materials on a launch site (e.g. chemicals, cryogenics, radioactive or pyrotechnic products) reduces actual and potential safety risks. Site designs and operating procedures should be established and periodically reviewed to ensure that total quantities are minimized and that excess quantities are removed.

5.6 Qualitative flight safety principles

5.6.1 At each time of the launch phase of a launch vehicle, only one operator shall be responsible for the flight safety operations performed on or from a launch site.

5.6.2 The flight safety operator of a launch site shall be operationally independent of all the space vehicle operators. This independence shall be guaranteed by the safety rules of the concerned operators.

5.6.3 The flight of a launch vehicle shall be authorized by the flight safety operator of the concerned launch site.

5.6.4 To minimize safety risk, either the flight safety operator of the concerned launch site shall have the delegated authority or a flight termination system shall be programmed on-board and approved by the flight safety operator, in order to interrupt the flight of a launch vehicle during the launch phase when it no longer complies with forecasts and before it becomes hazardous for populations on the ground.

5.6.5 Safety risks associated with the impact of flight space objects in water shall be minimized.

5.6.6 The launch vehicle and any jettisoned component parts shall not impact inside the land or territorial waters of a country different from the launch site country, unless such an extraterritorial impact, or the possibility thereof, has been agreed to in advance by the respective nations involved. Such an agreement should clearly describe issues such as financial compensation, responsibility for recovery of items, means of notification, and responsibility for mitigation of long-term effects.

5.6.7 The on-board radioactive products that can cause damage, if released, shall be designed to remain completely enclosed during any situation that may arise during the launch phase, even in the event of an inflight mishap.

5.6.8 The on-board nuclear reactors shall not move on to their critical state before the end of the launch phase, even in the event of an inflight mishap.

5.6.9 The design and use of a space vehicle carrying biological or chemical experiments shall comply with the stated safety objectives and eliminate any biological or chemical hazard for people, the environment, and the atmospheric and outer space, even in the event of an inflight mishap.

6 Launch safety process

6.1 Launch safety process requirement

In order to control safety risks, any launch site shall establish a launch safety process. The launch safety process shall be based on hazard analysis concerning hazardous items and the associated environment. It shall be iterative and continuous and take advantage of experience acquired in other launch activities. The applicable safety rules and process shall be enforced and followed. The launch safety process is described in the following subclauses.

6.2 Safety risk control

To control safety risks related to the hazardous operations performed on or from a launch site, the launch safety process shall make it possible to:

- a) identify hazards and hazardous situations and assess associated safety risks;
- b) eliminate hazards and hazardous situations related to unacceptable safety risks or reduce these safety risks so that they should become compatible with the stated safety objectives;
- c) accept and manage residual safety risks;
- d) define the arrangements that will make it possible to return to a safe situation after the occurrence of a mishap.

Experience acquired in other launch activities should be used to identify hazards and hazardous situations and assess associated safety risks early on, to suggest methods to eliminate hazards and hazardous situations or reduce safety risks, and to simplify the process in the case of recurrent items (as indicated in 6.4).

Duties associated with safety risk control should be based on both qualitative and quantitative hazard analysis methods. All operators shall show in their reports that they follow the qualitative and quantitative safety requirements allocated to them and shall demonstrate during qualification and acceptance tests that their facilities, equipment, and operations comply with the stated safety objectives. Maintaining the compliance of ground facilities and equipment with the stated safety objectives over time shall be covered by maintenance and configuration management plans.

6.3 Procedure

In order to achieve safe operations, any hazardous operation performed on or from a launch site shall be preceded by the preparation of formalized written procedures.

Procedural content shall comply with the national responsible authority requirements or at a minimum should identify precisely the nature of the hazardous operations, the environmental conditions, the potential mishaps, hazardous situations and their possible changes, the emergency plans, the necessary safety measures, and the possible returns in a safe situation.

Procedures dealing with hazardous operations shall be identified on the document cover. Procedures shall have safety warnings in plain language clearly marked in the body of the procedure, at the appropriate step. Where required, procedures shall carry information in more than one language. Procedures shall be subject to operating hazard analysis before they are approved. Procedures shall be approved by the concerned safety organization. Thereafter, no change which modifies a risk or adds a hazard shall be made without a new approval by the same safety organization.

When a hazardous operation is to be carried out even though it has not been identified during the hazard analysis, its procedure shall be drafted by the affected operator and submitted to the concerned safety organization for approval before the operation is started.

6.4 Safety submission process

The safety submission process is a safety risk management method that enables the appropriate safety organization to ensure that:

- a) the applicable safety regulations and rules are enforced and followed;
- b) the stated safety objectives have been achieved;
- c) implementation of this process will not generate an unacceptable safety risk, even in emergency conditions.

The safety submission process will result in the formal approval by the appropriate safety organization for any hazardous item (e.g. ground facility, test specimen, launch vehicle, onboard safety equipment, payload, or flight trajectory).