

ITALY

National mechanism:

Discussions are in progress with a view to develop national space-related legislation in the near future including provisions covering space debris mitigation measures. Pending the approval of a national space law, implementation of measures relevant to space debris mitigation are currently limited to the Italian Space Agency's (ASI) standard contracts provisions. ASI has the institutional task of defining, coordinating and managing national space programs.

Description:

None.

Applicability:

ASI applies the European Code of Conduct for Space Debris Mitigation, which it has signed on 14 February 2005, through its standard contract provisions, by making the the European Code of Conduct an ASI standard contracts applicable mandatory document.

Relation to international mechanisms:

The primary objectives of the European Code of Conduct for Space Debris Mitigation is to implement the following measures:

- prevention of on-orbit break-ups and collisions,
- removal and subsequent disposal of spacecraft and orbital stages that have reached the end of mission operations from the useful densely populated orbit regions,
- limitation of objects released during normal operations.

The above measures are applicable to the Italian Space Agency projects as follows: for space missions developed before 2005 or already in orbit, ASI has tried to implement the provisions of the European Code to the maximum possible extent, mainly in terms of end of life space debris mitigation procedures, in particular, the disposal phase of the satellites. After 2005, the Space Debris Mitigation European Code of Conduct is an applicable document to ASI space programs and projects, that is from the design, the development and the operational phase of satellites.

The European Code of Conduct for ASI Space Projects is mandatory throughout all phases of all space missions.

Through the application of the European Code of Conduct for Space Debris Mitigation, ASI is also consistent with a number of international mechanisms such as: Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee, IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines; ITU

Recommendation ITU-R S.1003 relevant to Environmental Protection of Geostationary satellite orbit; ISO Standards (24113 and following deriving standards), that have been developed afterwards. In this framework, ASI is going to update its current contractual provisions in line with the above updated space debris mitigation measures.

ASI is a member of the IADC and contributed to the IADC drafting and relevant updating of the IADC Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines; at the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Italy fully contributed to the developing of the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee.

Link to other national mechanisms:

None.

References:

None.