



19 March 2025

MAA/RN/2025/02 – Impact of the Space Industry Act on Military Activities

References

- A. Space Industry Act 2018.
- B. Space Industry Act (Licence Exemption for Military Activities of Allies) 2025.

Issue

HM Government published legislation at Reference A requiring Spaceport Licences for any operators launching projectiles above 47 km in altitude. UK Defence and supporting contractors were not required to comply with Reference A under Crown Immunity and, at Reference B, UK Allies were also exempt from the Space Industry Act 2018 for non-orbital activities above 47 km. MAA01¹ will be amended to reflect this Disapplication, Exemption, or Derogation (DED) from legislation.

Scope

This Regulatory Notice (RN) reflects the exemption from, and Crown Immunity against, the requirements in References A and B.

Aim

The aim is to inform the Regulated Community of the forthcoming amendment of MAA01 to reflect the DED for UK Defence and its Allies from Reference A and Reference B.

Implementation

This RN is effective with immediate effect and will be followed by an amendment to MAA01 in due course.

Background / Introduction

MAA01 will be amended in due course with the insertion of the following text:

The Space Industry Act 2018 makes provision for space activities and sub-orbital activities, and for connected purposes within which, at Section 9, operating Risks are mitigated to an As Low As Reasonably Practicable and Tolerable level for all activities planned above an altitude of 47 km. By virtue of The Space Industry Act (Licence Exemption for Military Activities of Allies) 2025 and existing Crown Immunity, UK Defence is not required to comply with the Space Industry Act 2018 and, as such, does not require Civil Aviation Authority-issued Spaceport Licences. Defence non-orbital activities exceeding an altitude of 47 km will be regulated and assured by the Defence Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives Safety Regulator and the MAA, such that Defence can demonstrate that the outcomes are at least

¹ Refer to MAA01 – MAA Regulatory Principles.



as good as those required within the Space Industry Act 2018, including equivalent range control and Spaceport Operator Licence requirements within Section 5-7 and Section 8-15.

Queries

Any observations or requests for further guidance on the content of this RN should be submitted by email to DSA-MAA-MRPEnquiries@mod.gov.uk.

Dep Head Regulations, MAA



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