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REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF BEST PRACTICES FOR SPACE REGULATORY  
REGIMES

**Abstract**

The community of space-active states and institutions is growing rapidly. Fifty-five nations currently have space agencies, with fourteen of these being added in the last ten years. While the commercial sector has long been a major player, universities are emerging as active players as well. A first task these new entrants often undertake is the operation of a satellite, which has many benefits for emerging nations and institutional space actors including: research, education, communications to remote areas, and support for agriculture.

It is in the interest of both satellite operators and the broader space-active community that new entrants are aware of and follow existing international laws and regulations. Clear regulations can ensure that all actors can operate safely in orbit and that new entrants can reap the benefits of having a satellite without becoming overwhelmed by administrative and legal processes.

This paper will evaluate how existing regulations are adopted by nations and institutions. Legal and regulatory requirements will be examined for all phases—launch, on-orbit, and re-entry—and will include satellite registration, radio frequency allocation registration, and adherence to orbital debris mitigation guidelines. Skills for spacecraft development and ground infrastructure requirements will also be considered. Although various national and institutional standards will be evaluated, United States regulations will be used as a foundation for how national policies facilitate adherence to national and international law. The final document, through examination of the current state of the art and potential ideal practices, will identify clear best practices and guidelines for use by new actors in the space arena.