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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2021 No. 817 (C. 45)**

**SPACE INDUSTRY**

**The Space Industry Act 2018 (Commencement No. 2,  
Transitional and Savings Provisions) Regulations 2021**

Made - - - - at 9.35 a.m. on 8th  
July 2021

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 70 of the Space Industry Act 2018<sup>(1)</sup>, makes the following Regulations.

**PART 1**

Preliminary

**Citation, extent and interpretation**

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Space Industry Act 2018 (Commencement No. 2, Transitional and Savings Provisions) Regulations 2021.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, subject as follows.

(3) In the Schedule, paragraphs 73, 82 to 85 and 113 do not extend to Northern Ireland.

(4) In the Schedule, paragraphs 86 to 87 and 116 extend to Northern Ireland only.

(5) In the Schedule, paragraph 117 has, for the purposes of the commencement of each amendment of an enactment made by Schedule 12 to the Act, the same extent as the enactment amended.

(6) In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Space Industry Act 2018 and a reference to a section without more is a reference to a section of the Act;

“cabin crew” means individuals who take part in spaceflight activities<sup>(2)</sup> on board a launch vehicle to perform duties assigned by the spaceflight operator or the pilot in command of the launch vehicle, but who are not members of the flight crew;

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(1) 2018 c. 5.

(2) “spaceflight activities” is defined in section 1(6) of the Space Industry Act 2018.

“carrier aircraft” means an aircraft which is carrying a launch vehicle which is to separate from that aircraft before the aircraft lands;

“crew” means—

- (a) members of the cabin crew, and
- (b) members of the flight crew;

“experimental transport” means a vehicle that is not operating for the purposes of transporting people or goods for commercial gain, such as a spacecraft<sup>(3)</sup> or aircraft specifically designed or modified for research, experimental or scientific purposes;

“flight crew” means individuals who take part in spaceflight activities on board a launch vehicle as a pilot or flight engineer of the launch vehicle;

“human occupant” means a member of the crew or a spaceflight participant;

“hypersonic” means a type of sub-orbital craft capable of operating above the stratosphere and capable of operating at the speed of at least Mach 5;

“launch operator licence” means an operator licence<sup>(4)</sup> which authorises a person to carry out spaceflight activities that include launching a launch vehicle or launching a carrier aircraft and a launch vehicle;

“launch vehicle” means—

- (a) a craft to which section 1(5) applies and the component parts of that craft, or
- (b) a space object<sup>(5)</sup> which is a vehicle and the component parts of that vehicle, that is used for the purpose of the proposed spaceflight activities or the operator’s spaceflight activities, as applicable, but does not include a payload carried by the launch vehicle;

“operator’s spaceflight activities” means spaceflight activities which are authorised by an operator licence and which are any of—

- (a) launching a launch vehicle;
- (b) launching a carrier aircraft;
- (c) operating the launch vehicle or a carrier aircraft whose launch is authorised by the operator licence, in so far as necessary for one or more of the following assignments—
  - (i) to carry a spaceflight participant,
  - (ii) to carry a payload until its release or separation from the launch vehicle,
  - (iii) to carry out sub-orbital activities, or
  - (iv) to return to earth and complete its flight, including orbital activities only in so far as they are necessary to complete such an assignment;
- (d) operating a launch vehicle whose launch is not authorised by the operator licence, in order to cause that vehicle to land in the United Kingdom;

“orbital activities” means spaceflight activities using a launch vehicle which has reached a stable orbit;

“pilot in command” means the pilot who—

- (a) takes part in the operator’s spaceflight activities on board the launch vehicle, and

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(3) See section 2(6) of the Space Industry Act 2018 for the definition of “spacecraft”.

(4) See section 3(2) of the Space Industry Act 2018 for the definition of “operator licence”.

(5) Space object is defined in section 69(1) of the Space Industry Act 2018, by reference to the Outer Space Act 1986 (c. 38). The definition is given in section 13(1) of that Act. It “includes the component parts of a space object, its launch vehicle and the component parts of that”.

(b) is designated by the spaceflight operator as being in command and charged with the safe conduct of its flight, without being under the direction of any other pilot;

“point to point transport” means a vehicle which takes off from a launch site (point A) and travels, wholly or in part using rocket-powered propulsion, to another site on earth or in orbit (point B) for the purposes of transporting people or goods for commercial gain but does not include experimental transport;

“proposed spaceflight activities” means any of the spaceflight activities mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of “operator’s spaceflight activities” which would be authorised by the operator licence that the applicant is applying for, if granted;

“return operator licence” means an operator licence which is not a launch operator licence and which authorises a person to operate a launch vehicle, launched elsewhere than the United Kingdom, in order to cause that vehicle to land in the United Kingdom;

“spaceflight operator” means the holder of a launch operator licence or a return operator licence;

“spaceflight participant” means an individual, other than a member of the crew, who is to be carried on board a launch vehicle with the spaceflight operator’s permission;

“stable orbit” means an orbit where a launch vehicle—

(a) has started to travel in an orbit of a minimum perigee of 130 kilometres taking account of any natural influences such as the forces of drag acting on that vehicle, and

(b) is capable of continuing to travel in that orbit for at least one orbit of the earth.

## PART 2

### Appointed day

#### **Provisions of the Space Industry Act 2018 coming into force on 29th July 2021**

2. 29th July 2021 is the day appointed for the coming into force of the provisions of the Space Industry Act 2018 listed in the Schedule.

## PART 3

### Transitional and savings provisions

#### **Transitional and savings provisions relating to the grant of a licence**

3.—(1) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this regulation apply where—

(a) an application for a licence has been made under the Outer Space Act 1986<sup>(6)</sup> before the coming into force of the provisions in or made under the Act which enables licences to be granted,

(b) the application has not yet been determined, and

(c) the application falls to be determined under the Act.

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(6) 1986 c. 38. The Outer Space Act 1986 has been amended by sections 1(2) and 2(3) of the British Overseas Territories Act 2002 (c. 8), Part 4 of Schedule 1 to the Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2004 (c. 14), section 12(1) to (3) of the Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20), and sections 1(3), 67(1) of, and paragraphs 8(1) to (5), 9, 10, 11(1) to (4), 12, 13 and 14(1) to (3) of Schedule 12 to, the Space Industry Act 2018.

(2) The application shall continue to be processed and determined under the Outer Space Act 1986.

(3) A licence which has been determined in accordance with paragraph (2) after the date of the coming into force of the provisions in or made under the Act which enables licences to be granted shall be treated as if granted under the Act.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Transport

At 9.35 a.m. on 8th July 2021

*Rachel Maclean*  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Transport

## SCHEDULE

Regulation 2

1. Section 1(1) (scope of the Act).
2. Section 1(2) (definition of when a person carries out “space activity” or “sub-orbital activity”).
3. Section 1(3) (amendment of the Outer Space Act 1986), except in so far as it relates to an activity of procuring the launch of a space object where—
  - (a) the activity is carried out in the United Kingdom by persons to whom the Outer Space Act 1986 applies by virtue of section 2 of that Act, and
  - (b) the launch of the space object is to be carried out outside the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
4. Section 1(4) (meaning of “space activity”), except in so far as this definition relates to an activity of procuring the launch of a space object where—
  - (a) the activity is carried out in the United Kingdom by persons to whom the Outer Space Act 1986 applies by virtue of section 2 of that Act, and
  - (b) the launch of the space object is to be carried out outside the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
5. Section 1(6) (definition of “spaceflight activities”).
6. Section 2(1) to (3) (duties and supplementary powers of the regulator).
7. Section 3(1) (prohibition of unlicensed spaceflight etc), except in so far as it relates to an activity of procuring the launch of a space object where—
  - (a) the activity is carried out in the United Kingdom by persons to whom the Outer Space Act 1986 applies by virtue of section 2 of that Act, and
  - (b) the launch of the space object is to be carried out outside the United Kingdom or elsewhere.
8. Section 3(4) (exemption from requirement to have an operator licence).
9. Section 3(6) and (7) (offences: prohibition of unlicensed spaceflight).
10. Section 4(1) (exemption from licence requirement).
11. Section 5(3) (range: directions making power).
12. Section 7(1) (persons who may provide range control services).
13. Section 7(3) (exemption from requirement to have a range control licence).
14. Section 7(8) and (9) (offences: provision of range control services).
15. Section 8(1) to (3) (grant of licences: general provisions), except in so far as it relates to the licensing of spaceflight activities involving—
  - (a) an orbital launch vehicle with human occupants;
  - (b) hypersonic or other point to point transport.
16. Section 8(4) (Secretary of State’s consent: grant of a licence).
17. Section 9(1) (requirements for the grant of operator licences: safety).
18. Section 9(2) and (3) (prescribed roles, capacities and requirements: risk assessment), so far as not already in force.
19. Section 9(4) (health and safety etc: acceptable risks).
20. Section 9(8) (regulator’s requirement to have regard to guidance).
21. Section 10 (prescribed requirements etc: grant of a spaceport licence), so far as not already in force.

22. Section 11(1), (2) and (5) (grant of licences: assessments of environmental effects).
23. Section 12 (terms of licences).
24. Section 13(1) (conditions of licences).
25. Section 13(2) (meaning of “specified”).
26. Section 13(4) (recognition of licences from other jurisdictions and meaning of “designated”).
27. Section 13(5) (duty of Secretary of State to publicise designated countries under section 13(4) (a) of the Act).
28. Section 13(6) (duty of the regulator to consult specified bodies).
29. Section 13(8) (offences: conditions of licences).
30. Section 14(1) and (2) (grant of licences for specified periods).
31. Section 14(3) (regulator’s duty to consult before renewing a licence).
32. Section 15 (transfer, variation, suspension or termination of a licence).
33. Section 16(4) (application of sections 2 and 15 of the Act to an appointed person).
34. Section 17(1) (prescribed role, capacity or criteria: informed consent), so far as not already in force.
35. Section 17(2) (consent), so far as not already in force.
36. Section 17(4) (offences: informed consent).
37. Section 18(4) (duties of a holder of a licence under the Act and meaning of unqualified), so far as not already in force.
38. Section 18(6) to (8) (offences: training, qualifications and medical fitness).
39. Section 21(1), (3) to (5) (assistance etc with performance of regulator’s safety functions).
40. Section 21(2) (prescribed body or person: qualifying health and safety authority), so far as not already in force.
41. Section 22 (offences against the safety of spacecraft etc).
42. Section 23(4) to (7) (order making powers of the Secretary of State relating to security).
43. Section 24 (spaceport byelaws).
44. Section 25 (provision of advice and assistance on security matters).
45. Section 26(1), (2) and (4) (monitoring and enforcement by the regulator).
46. Section 27 (power to give directions: breach of licence condition etc).
47. Section 28(1) to (4) (power to give directions: safety, security etc).
48. Section 28(5) (duty of Secretary of State to consult before giving directions under specified provisions of the Act).
49. Section 28(6) to (8) (meaning of “spaceflight security”, “act of violence”, “relevant offence” and “regulated person”).
50. Section 29 (power to give directions: international obligations of the UK).
51. Section 30 (consultation about directions).
52. Section 31(1), (2) and (5) (further provision about directions).

53. Section 31(3) (offences: further provision about directions).
54. Section 31(4) (enforcement of directions).
55. Section 32(1) to (8) (warrants authorising entry or direct action).
56. Section 32(9) (offences: warrants authorising entry or direct action).
57. Section 32(10) (application of section 32 of the Act to Scotland).
58. Section 32(11) (application of section 32 of the Act to Northern Ireland).
59. Section 33(1) to (7) (power to authorise entry etc in emergencies).
60. Section 33(8) (offences: power to authorise entry etc in emergencies).
61. Section 34(1), (2) and (4) (liability of operator for injury or damage etc).
62. Section 34(3) (prescribed injury or damage not covered by section 34(2)), so far as not already in force.
63. Section 35 (power or duty of Secretary of State to indemnify), so far as not already in force.
64. Section 36(1), (2) and (4) (obligation to indemnify government etc against claims).
65. Section 36(3) (prescribed cases or circumstances: obligation to indemnify government etc against claims), so far as not already in force.
66. Section 37(1), (2) and (4) (regulator etc not liable in respect of spaceflight-related actions).
67. Section 37(3) and (5) (meaning of “relevant actions” and “gross negligence”).
68. Section 38(3), (5) to (7) (power to make arrangements relating to insurance and meaning of “report period”).
69. Section 38(4) (arrangements for insurance or reinsurance), so far as not already in force.
70. Section 38(9) and (10) (payment arrangements in connection with insurance).
71. Section 39(1), (2), (4) to (9) and (11) (powers in relation to rights over land).
72. Section 39(3) and (10) (meaning of “qualifying person”, “carrying out works on land” and “maintaining works”).
73. Section 39(12) (parliamentary procedure relating to an order made under section 39 and meaning of “relevant day”).
74. Section 40 (offences relating to an order made under section 39).
75. Section 41(1) to (4) (order making power to restrict the use of land temporarily).
76. Section 41(5) to (8) (offences relating to restricted use of land).
77. Section 41(9) (meaning of “launch or landing” and “specified”).
78. Section 42 (power of entry for the purpose of survey).
79. Section 43 (challenges to and commencement of orders).
80. Section 44 (powers in relation to land: compensation).
81. Section 45 (registration of orders).
82. Section 46 (special provisions relating to statutory undertakers).
83. Section 47(1), and (4) to (8) (compensation in respect of planning decisions relating to spaceport safety etc: England and Wales and Scotland).

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).*

**84.** Section 47(2) and (3) (meaning of “relevant person” and provisions mentioned in section 47(1)).

**85.** Section 47(9) (meaning of “local planning authority”, “planning decision” and “range control apparatus”).

**86.** Section 48(1) (compensation in respect of planning decisions relating to spaceport safety etc: Northern Ireland).

**87.** Section 48(2) and (3) (meaning of “the relevant person”, “planning decision” and “range control apparatus”).

**88.** Section 49(1) to (3), (5) and (6) (amendment and revocation of orders).

**89.** Section 49(4) (meaning of “the relevant persons”).

**90.** Section 50 (powers in relation to land: notices).

**91.** Section 51 (application of criminal law to spacecraft etc).

**92.** Section 53 (penalties for offences under the Act).

**93.** Section 55(1) to (3) (offences under regulations: extended time limit in case of accident investigation etc).

**94.** Section 55(4) (meaning of “accident”).

**95.** Section 56(1) to (3) (defences).

**96.** Section 57(1) and (2) (offences by bodies corporate).

**97.** Section 57(3) (meaning of “officer” in relation to a body corporate).

**98.** Section 58(1) to (5) (offences by partnerships).

**99.** Section 58(6) (meaning of “offence” and “partner”).

**100.** Section 60 (appeals), so far as not already in force.

**101.** Section 61 (register of launches).

**102.** Section 62 (charging schemes), so far as not already in force.

**103.** Section 63 (provision of advice and assistance by or to an appointed person).

**104.** Section 64 (co-operation between Secretary of State and other public authorities).

**105.** Section 66(2) and (5) (use of records and documentary evidence).

**106.** Section 66(1), (3) and (4) (prescribed person: use of records and documentary evidence), so far as not already in force.

**107.** Section 67(1) and (3) (minor and consequential amendments).

**108.** Schedule 1 (particular conditions that may be included in licences).

**109.** Schedule 4 (offences against the safety of spacecraft etc).

**110.** Schedule 6 (orders under sections 39 and 41).

**111.** Schedule 7 (powers in relation to land: quashing of orders).

**112.** Schedule 8 (powers in relation to land: compensation).

**113.** Schedule 9 (powers in relation to land: special provisions relating to statutory undertakers).

**114.** Schedule 10 (appeals), so far as not already in force.



- 115. Schedule 11 (charging schemes), so far as not already in force.
- 116. Schedule 12, paragraphs 1, 15, 17, 26 and 30 (minor and consequential amendments: Northern Ireland).
- 117. Schedule 12, paragraphs 2 to 7, 9, and 11 to 33 (minor and consequential amendments).

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations are the second Commencement Regulations made under the Space Industry Act 2018 (c. 5) (“the Act”) and they bring certain provisions of the Act into force on 29th July 2021. The first set of Commencement Regulations were brought into force by the Space Industry Act 2018 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1224). The provisions brought into force are mentioned in the Schedule to these Regulations.

The provisions mentioned in the Schedule to these Regulations extend to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland except for those referred to in:

- (a) paragraphs 73, 82 to 85 and 113 which do not extend to Northern Ireland,
- (b) paragraphs 86 to 87 and 116 which apply to Northern Ireland only, and
- (c) paragraph 117 which has the same extent as the amendments to which Schedule 12 to the Act relates.

Regulation 3(1) and (2) makes transitional provisions which enable applications for licences made under the Outer Space Act 1986 (“the 1986 Act”) at the coming into force of the licensing provisions contained in the Act, and which fall to be determined under that Act, to continue to be considered and determined under the 1986 Act.

Regulation 3(3) saves licences granted by virtue of regulation 3(1) and (2) after the coming into force of the licensing provisions made under the Act by treating such licences as granted under the Act.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen. Impact Assessments carried out in relation to the Act are available from the Department for Transport, Commercial Spaceflight Team, International Aviation, Safety and Environment, 4th Floor, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR and at [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/5/pdfs/ukpgaod\\_20180005\\_en\\_001.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/5/pdfs/ukpgaod_20180005_en_001.pdf).

## NOTE AS TO EARLIER COMMENCEMENT REGULATIONS

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

The following provisions of the Space Industry Act 2018 have been brought into force by Commencement Regulations made before the date of these Regulations.

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Date of Commencement</i>	<i>S.I. No.</i>
Section 1(5)	26th November 2018	2018/1224

*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made).*

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Date of Commencement</i>	<i>S.I. No.</i>
Section 2(4) to (7)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 3(2), (3) and (5)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 4(2) to (4)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 5(1) and (2)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 6(1) and (2)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 7(2), (4) to (7)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 8(5) to (7)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 9(2) and (3) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 9(5) to (7) and (9)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 10 (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 11(3), (4) and (6)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 13(3) and (7)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 14(4)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 16(1) to (3) and (5) to (8)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 17(1) and (2) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 17(3)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 18(1) to (3)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 18(4) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 18(5)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 19	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 20	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 21(2) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 21(6)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 23(1) to (3)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 26(3)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 34(3) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Date of Commencement</i>	<i>S.I. No.</i>
Section 34(5) and (6)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 35(1)(b) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 35(5)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 36(3) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 38(1) and (2)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 38(4) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 38(8)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 52	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 54	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 56(4)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 59	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 60 (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 62 (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 65	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 66(1), (3) and (4) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Section 67(2) to (4)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Schedule 2	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Schedule 3	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Schedule 5	26th November 2018	2018/1224
Schedule 10—	26th November 2018	2018/1224
paragraph 1	26th November 2018	2018/1224
paragraph 4 (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
paragraph 5(3) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
paragraph 10	26th November 2018	2018/1224
paragraph 11 (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224
paragraph 12(2) and (3) (partially)	26th November 2018	2018/1224

**Status:** This is the original version (as it was originally made).

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Date of Commencement</i>	<i>S.I. No.</i>
paragraph 13(2) (partially), and	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
paragraph 15	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
paragraph 16(1) and (3)	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
Schedule 11—	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
paragraph 1	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
paragraph 2(1),	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
paragraph 3(1) and (3) and	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
paragraph (5)(1) to (3)	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
Schedule 12—	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
paragraph 8, and	26th November 2018	<a href="#">2018/1224</a>
paragraph 10		