



HANDBOOK ON SPACE REGULATION AND SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
2025



GUIDELINES FOR SPACE REGULATIONS, LICENSES, AND SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT IN NIGERIA

1. INTRODUCTION

The **National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA)**, pursuant to its powers under Section 35 of the **National Space Research and Development Agency Act of 2010** and **Gazette No. 106 Vol. 108 dated 28th September 2021**, establishes these guidelines to regulate all space activities conducted:

- Within Nigerian territory,
- On a Nigerian-registered ship or aircraft, or
- By corporations registered in Nigeria engaged in space-related activities.

The guidelines shall apply to the following organisations or bodies corporate:

- I. Corporations registered in Nigeria with ownership of space object(s) (e.g. satellites, space crafts, ground stations and launch vehicles).

II.Operators and manufacturers of space object(s) and launch vehicles within Nigerian territory or that which Nigeria is a party to.

III.Corporate organisations who control and manage space objects that operate within and over the Nigerian territory.

IV.This guideline shall be reviewed as the need arises.

2. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

2.1 Licensing Requirements

Entities engaged in space activities must obtain a license from NASRDA, ensuring compliance with:

- Safety and security standards,
- Environmental and public health considerations,
- National and international obligations, including ITU regulations,
- Insurance requirements under Article 12 of the Liability Convention.

2.2 Licensing Process

- Applications must be submitted to NASRDA's Space Regulation and Spectrum Management Department via Space Regulations and Spectrum Management Portal on the NASRDA website
- Licenses are issued based on compliance with extant regulatory conditions and payment of the required fees.
- Depending on the license category applied for, the validity of licenses ranges from **one (1) to five (5) years**.

3. REGISTER OF SPACE OBJECTS

NASRDA shall maintain a **National Space Register as in accordance with sections 6 (k & l) and 9 of the NASRDA Act, 2010**, recording details such as:

- Name of the space actor

Name of the Launching entity

- Registration number and launch details,
- Orbital parameters and function of the space object.

All modifications must be reported within 21 days, failure of which may attract penalties. The Agency will also submit registered objects to the United Nations in compliance with Outer Space Treaty

4. LICENSING CATEGORIES

Space activities are classified into three (3) categories:

4.1 Upstream

i. **Satellite Landing Permit:** The landing permit authorizes this Space Segment Operators to operate as it covers Nigeria's territory on land and seas.

ii. **Space Spectrum Access:** Space spectrum access provides operators of satellites access to the vertical spectrum for operation of satellites over the Nigerian territory.

License tenure: 5 years (renewable).

4.2 Midstream

Includes satellite data processing, encryption, network management, teleport services, LIS and GIS software distribution, LIS and GIS software development and Consultancy services.

License tenure: Annual renewal required.

4.3 Downstream

Covers ground station operations, construction and operation of launch facilities, launch of space objects and access to flight path, overseas launch certificate, those who own or operate a launch vehicle, and space object manufacturing.

License tenure: 3 years (renewable).

4.4 Licensing Fees and Permits

All corporate bodies engaged in space activities must pay applicable fees, including:

- Application fees,
- License fees,
- License renewal fees, as determined by NASRDA.

5. SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

Space spectrum access refers to the authorization granted to satellite operators for the use of radio frequency (RF) spectrum within the vertical space above Nigeria's territory, including land, airspace, and maritime zones.

5.1 Space Spectrum Access License: Provides the legal right to utilize specific frequency bands for satellite operations within the vertical spectrum of Nigeria, ensuring non-interference and harmonization with the national frequency allocation table.

5.2 All licensed operators are subject to ongoing compliance monitoring to ensure efficient spectrum use and avoidance of signal interference. Non-compliance with spectrum management requirements may result in sanctions, revocation of access rights, or financial penalties.

6. LICENSE APPLICATION AND MANAGEMENT

6.1 Online Application Process

NASRDA's Space Regulations and Spectrum Management Portal enables:

- User registration and login,
- Document submission and verification,
- Application tracking and payment processing,
- Renewal of expiring licenses.

6.2 Compliance Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Certificate of Incorporation and Updated Annual Returns.
- Relevant regulatory approvals (Standard Organization of Nigeria, Nigeria Communications Commission, Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation, National Information Technology Development Agency, International Standards Organization etc.),
- Technical documentation, and
- Undergo physical inspection where necessary.

7. SANCTIONS AND PENALTIES

7.1 Penalties and sanctions shall be placed on individuals or anybody corporate who violate the conditions stated Regulations on the Licensing of Space Activities, 2015.

7.2 Legal enforcement shall be made as deemed fit by the Agency in accordance with the Enforcement Mechanisms enacted by Law. These enforcements shall be in line with extant provisions of the Law which include obtaining court orders, deployment of law enforcement and anti-graft

agencies for sealing of premises, suspension of services and signal jamming.

7.3 A party in default shall pay 100% penalty in addition to payment of the licensing fee.

Appendix: License Application Checklist

- Geo-location – longitude and latitude of operational sites for downstream and midstream license applicants.
- Certificate of Company Incorporation
- Other regulatory approvals and Certificates: SON, ISO, NITDA, NCC, NBC.
- Readiness for Physical Inspection for Downstream license applicant and satellite data centre license applicants in the midstream sector.