

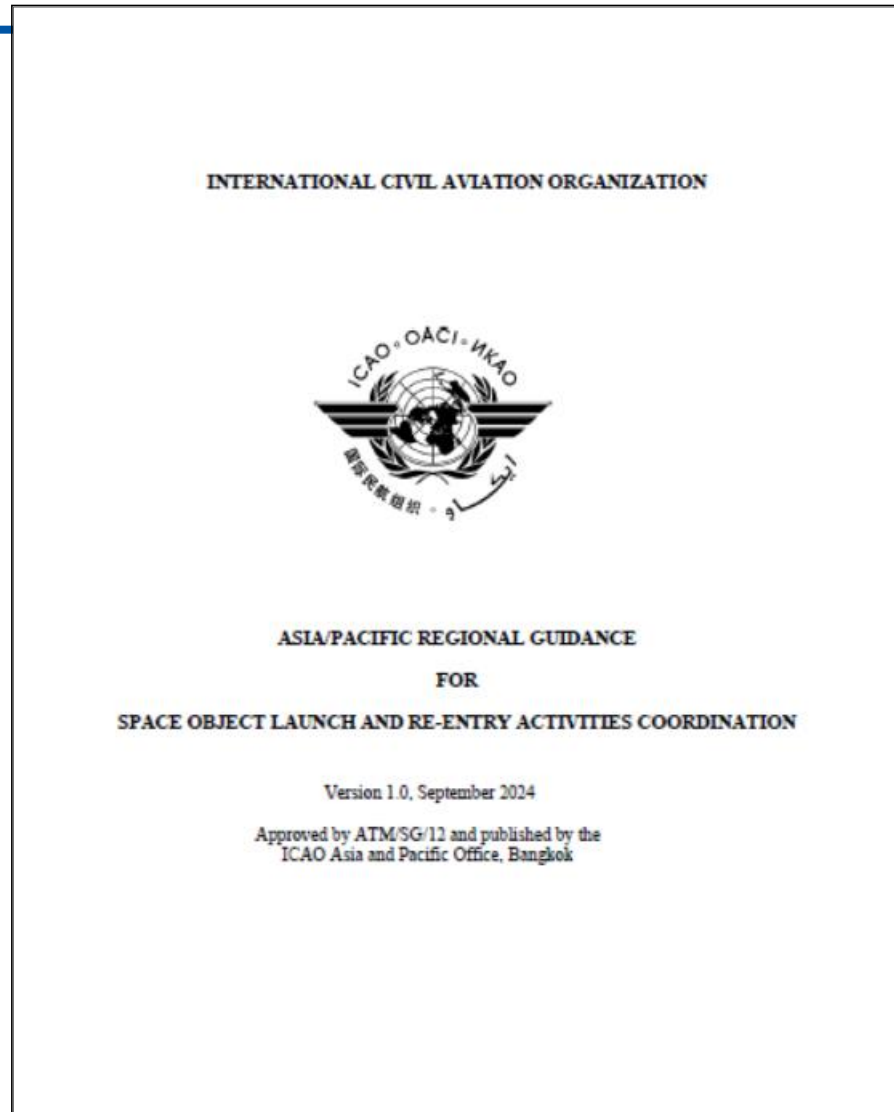


**INTERNATIONAL
CIVIL AVIATION
ORGANIZATION**



Overview of the *Asia/Pacific Regional Guidance for Space Object Launch and Re-entry Activities Coordination Version 1.0*

15 July 2026



- Developed by the **Space Vehicle Launch and Re-entry Coordination Small Working Group (SVLRC SWG)** formed under ATM/SG, replacing previous regional guidance in the *Asia/Pacific Seamless ANS Plan v3.0* and *Asia/Pacific Planning Checklist for Ballistic Launch and Space Re-Entry*.
- Available on the ICAO APAC Office eDocuments webpage:
<https://www.icao.int/APAC/apac-electronic-documents>

Chapter 1 – Scope of the Document

- **Applicability:** Covers all space launch and re-entry activities (commercial, State, ballistic, and other operations) that may pose risks to civil aviation.
- **Goal:** Enable timely collection, coordination, and dissemination of launch/re-entry information to enhance aviation safety and minimize operational disruptions.
- **State Responsibility:** States are encouraged to establish, test, and refine procedures for space launch and re-entry activities. States remain responsible for coordinating activities hazardous to civil aviation, regardless of the responsible organization.
- **State POC:** *Asia/Pacific Regional Points of Contact List for Space Object Launch and Re-entry Activities Coordination* is maintained separately and posted on ICAO APAC Office eDocuments webpage. States to regularly review and provide updated information to ICAO APAC Office (apac@icao.int)

Chapter 2 – Definitions, Abbreviations and Acronyms

- The definitions are to aid readers in understanding and applying the principles outlined in this document. They may not be universally agreed upon outside of the APANPIRG.

Chapter 3 – Procedures for Coordinating Space Object Launch And Re-entry Activities

- General responsibilities of **Launching State**:
 - **regulate** space object launch and re-entry activities;
 - **develop and enact regulations** ensuring that the Space Object Launch and Re-entry **Operator** and the **Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority** comply with the requirements in ICAO Annex 11, for the coordination of activities potentially hazardous to civil aircraft;
 - **identify** the **Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority** responsible for coordination of space activities, including identifying the proper entity to **initiate NOTAM request** for space object launch and re-entry activities within the FIR/s assigned to the Launching State, in accordance with ICAO Annex 15 Section 2.1; and
 - **validates the launch window and the coordinates** of the extent of the airspace affected by the space object launch and re-entry activities.

Chapter 3 – Procedures for Coordinating Space Object Launch And Re-entry Activities

- General responsibilities of **Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority**:
 - **serve as the focal point** for collecting, coordinating, and disseminating all available information relevant to space object launch or re-entry activities to **Affected Appropriate ATS Authorities** and/or other affected stakeholders;
 - **identify and assess potential impacts or constraints to airspace** where the State is responsible for the provision of ATS, to ensure the compliance of the requirements in ICAO Annex 11 Section 2.19;
Note: this includes the determination for the need to establish any special use airspace (SUA), airspace restrictions or temporary withdrawal of established ATS routes to avoid hazards to civil aircraft and inform affected ATS unit accordingly.
 - **plot area using validated coordinates and provide a graphical representation of the polygon** to **Affected Appropriate ATS Authorities** for reference; and
 - **ensure the safe and efficient integration of space object launch and re-entry activities** into the airspace system.

Chapter 3 – Procedures for Coordinating Space Object Launch And Re-entry Activities

- General responsibilities of **Affected Appropriate ATS Authority**:
 - **receive and coordinate information** relevant to space object launch or re-entry activities from **Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority** with other affected stakeholders;
 - **identify and assess potential impacts or constraints to airspace** where the State is responsible for the provision of ATS, to ensure the compliance of the requirements in ICAO Annex 11 Section 2.19;
 - **plot hazard/danger area**;
 - **ensure the issuance and update of any NOTAM** promulgating information on the activity; and
 - **ensure the safe and efficient integration of space object launch and re-entry activities** into the airspace system.

Chapter 3 – Procedures for Coordinating Space Object Launch And Re-entry Activities

- General responsibilities of **Space Object Launch and Re-entry Operator**:
 - **provide tentative launch window** commencement time and duration (primary and, if any, backup timing and dates), and **extent of airspace affected** (latitude/longitude coordinates), and **any other necessary supporting information** to the **Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority**.

Note: once the Launching State approves an operation, the Space Object Launch and Re-entry Operator works with the Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority to determine the necessary steps for coordination of airspace and operations.

Chapter 3 – Procedures for Coordinating Space Object Launch And Re-entry Activities

- **Pre-Launch Planning and Coordination:**
 - Operational coordination to the Affected Appropriate ATS Authority should be accomplished using AFTN or AMHS, while supplemental material should be provided via email.
 - Ideally a conference call or some other form of positive coordination should also be accomplished by the Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority.

Chapter 3 – Procedures for Coordinating Space Object Launch And Re-entry Activities

- **Pre-Launch Planning and Coordination:**
 - **Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority** should **begin coordinating** with **Affected Appropriate ATS Authorities, at least 10 days (ideally 14 days) prior** to the proposed activity. Information to be provided:
 - ✓ tentative launch window commencement time and duration (primary and, if any, backup timing and dates);
 - ✓ activity time of day and extent of airspace affected (latitude/longitude coordinates);
 - ✓ identification of POC in the Launching State ATS Authority;
 - ✓ identification of POC in the Affected Appropriate ATS Authority; and
 - ✓ any other necessary supporting information.

Chapter 3 – Procedures for Coordinating Space Object Launch And Re-entry Activities

- **Pre-Launch Planning and Coordination:**
 - **Affected Appropriate ATS Authorities** should **ensure planning and notification are in place** for all stages of the activity to include any re-entry/debris possibility, and in accordance with the PANS AIM. **Publication of the NOTAM** for all affected FIRs will be completed **at least seven days in advance**, and include the following items of information:
 - ✓ activity window duration;
 - ✓ activity time of day and extent of proposed danger or restricted area (latitude/longitude coordinates); and
 - ✓ any other necessary supporting information, such as affected ATS routes, alternate routings, direct routings, etc.

Chapter 3 – Procedures for Coordinating Space Object Launch And Re-entry Activities

- **Tactical Launch Coordination:**
 - **Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority** should provide **notice of three days prior to requested launch window**, via AFTN or AMHS, to all **Affected Appropriate ATS Authorities**.
 - positive coordination should be executed to **confirm and manage the requested dates of the activity within three days, but not less than 24 hours, of the proposed start**.
 - after confirming coordination via AFTN or AMHS, the **Affected Appropriate ATS Authority** should **publish a NOTAM** for the launch “window” **with three days notice, but not less than 24 hours**.
 - NOTAM are published by the International NOTAM Office (NOF) serving the affected FIR in response to the request/direction of the Appropriate ATS Authority for that FIR.

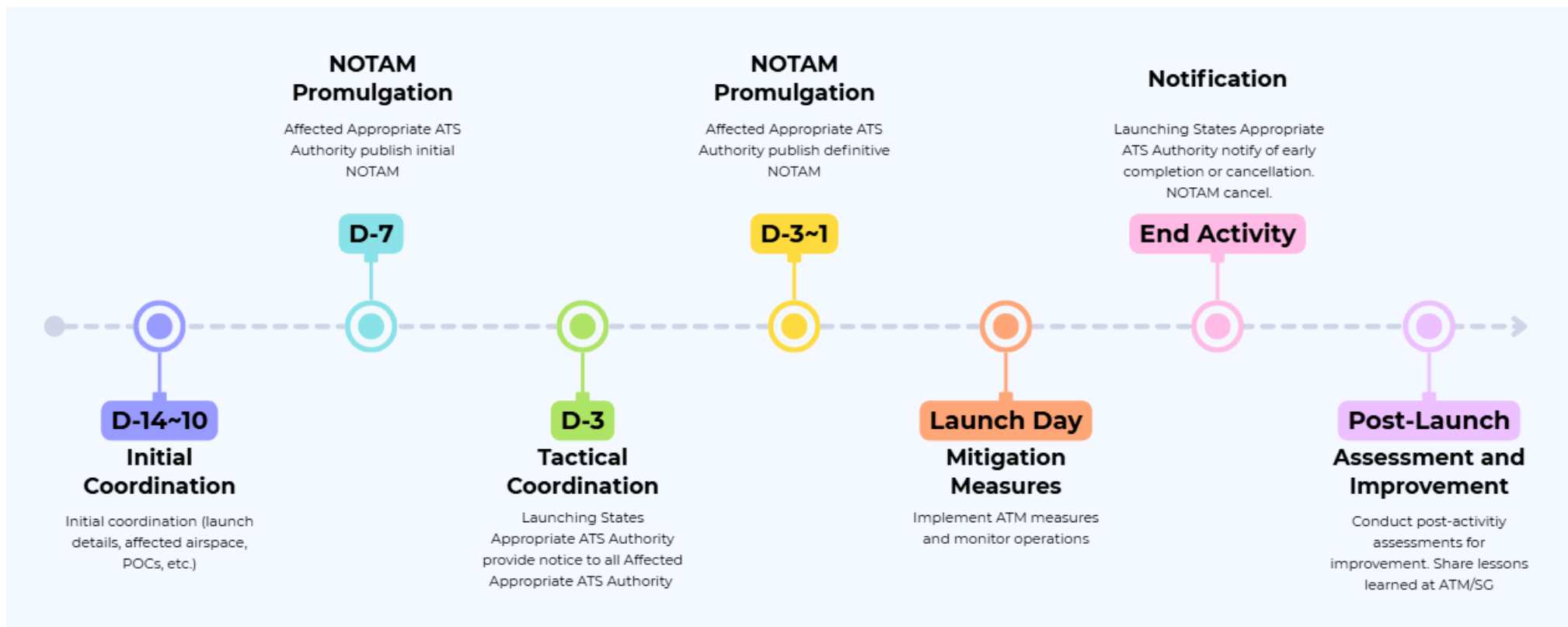
Chapter 4 – Re-establishing Normal Airspace Operations Following the End of Activities

- **Early Completion:** if hazardous activities end before the coordinated launch window closes, the Launching State ATS Authority should promptly notify Affected Appropriate ATS Authorities to terminate mitigations and withdraw NOTAMs. Otherwise, NOTAMs remain valid until their published expiry.
- **Cancellation:** any launch cancellation should be communicated by the Launching State ATS Authority to all affected FIRs as soon as possible.

Chapter 5 – Post-launch Assessment

- **Post-Activity Review:** Launching State Appropriate ATS Authority and Affected Appropriate ATS Authorities should conduct post-activity assessments and gather stakeholder feedback to improve future launch and re-entry related airspace management and coordination.
- **Continuous Improvement:** States are encouraged to share lessons learned and proposed updates with APANPIRG through ATM/SG.

Activities Timeline



Next Steps

- Review the current Guidance (Version 1.0) to identify gaps, inefficiencies, and opportunities for improvement.
- Develop and recommend specific revisions to strengthen coordination processes and operational effectiveness.
- Establish and agree on the timeline for implementing the updates.
- Update the *Asia/Pacific Regional Points of Contact List for Space Object Launch and Re-entry Activities Coordination*.

Thank You

