



Australian Government



Australian
Space Agency

Australian High Power Rocket Permit

Application Guidelines

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Disclaimer

Guidelines are not legally binding other than to the extent they refer to binding legislation, identified throughout.

These guidelines for the application of Australian high power rocket permits should be read in conjunction with the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018* (the Act), *Space (Launches and Returns) (High Power Rocket) Rules 2019* (the High Power Rocket Rules) and *Space (Launches and Returns) (Insurance) Rules 2019* (the Insurance Rules). These guidelines do not exclude, limit or replace the requirements of the Act, High Power Rocket Rules and Insurance Rules. If there is any ambiguity or inconsistency, the Act, High Power Rocket Rules and/or Insurance Rules have precedence.

This publication is not legal or professional advice. Persons rely upon this publication entirely at their own risk and must take responsibility for assessing the relevance and accuracy of the information in relation to their circumstances.

Version control

Version	Date	Details
1.0	December 2022	Initial issue.
1.1	February 2023	Revised issue.
1.2	August 2023	Updated to incorporate amendments to the <i>Space (Launches and Returns) (High Power Rocket) Rules 2019</i> as a consequence of the <i>Space (Launches and Returns) Legislation Amendment (Suitably Qualified Experts) Rules 2023</i> .

Approved by the General Manager Office of the Space Regulator.

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1. Introduction

1.1 About the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018*

Australia is a founding member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and is party to the United Nations space treaties. Australia is committed to ensuring a safe, stable and sustainable outer space environment by building a culture of safety and sustainability within the Australian space sector.

The *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018* (the Act) sets out a regime for the regulation of space activities in Australia or by Australians overseas. The objects of the Act include seeking to ensure a reasonable balance is achieved between:

- the removal of barriers to participation in space activities and the encouragement of innovation and entrepreneurship in the space industry
- the safety of space activities, and the risk of damage to persons or property as a result of space activities

The Act also implements certain Australian obligations under the United Nations space treaties.

The Act includes powers for the Minister to make rules by legislative instrument. The rules support effective operation of the Act. They are intended to provide clear information and a streamlined process relevant to the approval of an activity under the Act. There are currently three legislative instruments setting out rules under the Act (collectively the Rules):

- the *Space (Launches and Returns) (General) Rules 2019* (the General Rules) provides detail on the application requirements and additional criteria for approvals under the Act (other than high power rockets)
- the *Space (Launches and Returns) (High Power Rocket) Rules 2019* (the High Power Rocket Rules) provides detail on the application requirements and additional criteria for approval of Australian high power rocket permits; and
- the *Space (Launches and Returns) (Insurance) Rules 2019* (the Insurance Rules) provides detail relating to insurance and financial requirements applicable to certain approvals under the Act.

1.2 About these guidelines

These guidelines explain the authorisation process for an Australian high power rocket permit.

The relevant legislation for an Australian high power rocket permit is the Act, the High Power Rocket Rules and the Insurance Rules.

These guidelines are not legally binding other than to the extent they refer to binding legislation. Therefore these guidelines should be read in conjunction with the Act, the High Power Rocket Rules and the Insurance Rules. Guidelines do not exclude, limit or replace the requirements of the legislation. If there is any ambiguity or inconsistency, the Act and/or High Power Rocket Rules and/or Insurance Rules have precedence.

1.3 Role of the applicant

An applicant (you/your) is responsible for applying for an Australian high power rocket permit where required and meeting all legislative obligations as required by the Act and High Power Rocket Rules, as well as any conditions placed on the permit.

1.4 Role of the Australian Space Agency

The Australian Space Agency (we/us/the Agency) is a division of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (the Department). The Department, through the Agency and its Office of the Space

Regulator, is responsible for administering the Act and Rules, and publishes information to assist applicants navigate the application and assessment process for their activities.

The Agency is headquartered in Adelaide, South Australia, with staff in most capital cities.

1.5 Role of the Minister

The Minister (or their delegate) makes the decision whether to grant an Australian high power rocket permit, considering advice from the Agency, and only if they are satisfied that an application meets the criteria in the Act and High Power Rocket Rules ([see 2.4 Criteria for granting an Australian high power rocket permit](#)).

2. Australian High power rocket permit overview

2.1 Who should apply?

You will need an Australian high power rocket permit if you intend to launch a rocket, from Australia, that does not exceed an altitude of 100km above mean sea level and:

- that is propelled by a motor or motors with a combined total impulse greater than 889,600 Newton seconds, or
- that is propelled by a motor or motors with a combined total impulse greater than 40,960 Newton seconds and is fitted with a system or systems that allow active control of its trajectory

If you have any questions as to whether you need an Australian high power rocket permit, you can contact us (see 7. [Contacting us](#)).

NOTE: if you intend for your rocket to reach beyond an altitude of 100km above mean sea level you will require an Australian launch permit, not an Australian high power rocket permit.

2.2 What is the purpose of an Australian high power rocket permit?

Australian High power rocket permits ensure that high power rocket launches in Australia are safe and are done in a manner such that the probability of causing substantial harm to public health or public safety, or substantial damage to property is as low as reasonably practicable.

High power rockets are regulated under the Act because they are powerful and potentially manoeuvrable enough that they could theoretically transition to being a space object. High power rocket launches present a high risk profile which, to ensure safety of such activities, require evaluation under the [Flight Safety Code](#) and the application of insurance requirements.

2.3 What does an Australian high power rocket permit authorise?

An Australian high power rocket permit authorises the launch of a high power rocket from a specified facility (whether fixed or mobile), or specified place, in Australia.

2.4 Criteria for granting an Australian high power rocket permit

In granting an Australian high power rocket permit, the Minister or their delegate must be satisfied that:¹

- the person who is to carry out the rocket launch is competent to do so
- the insurance/financial requirements in Part 3 Division 7 of the Act will be satisfied for the rocket launch*
- the probability of the rocket launch causing substantial harm to public health or public safety or causing substantial damage to property is as low as is reasonably practicable
- there are no reasons relevant to the security, defence or international relations of Australia why the permit should not be granted
- the high power rocket is as effective and safe as is reasonably practicable for the purpose of the rocket launch
- the flight path for the rocket launch is as effective and safe as is reasonably practicable, taking into account the purpose of the rocket launch, the rocket's design and the launch safety standards in the [Flight Safety Code](#)
- the risk hazard analysis for the rocket launch is consistent with the [Flight Safety Code](#)

¹ See section 38 of the Act and section 6 of the High Power Rocket Rules.

- there is adequate planning to address the environmental impacts of the rocket launch (See [4.13 Environment](#))

***NOTE:** The Act includes a criterion that the Minister must be satisfied that insurance and financial requirements have been satisfied for the rocket launch under the permit. The [Space \(Launches and Returns\) \(Insurance\) Rules 2019](#) specifies \$100 million as the minimum amount of insurance or direct financial responsibility for a high power rocket launch authorised by an Australian high power rocket permit. Alternatively a lesser amount may be approved based on the Maximum Probable Loss (MPL) Methodology.

2.5 Permit conditions

Your Australian high power rocket permit will typically include the following standard conditions, which require you to:²

- conduct the launch in a way that is not likely to cause substantial harm to public health or public safety or cause substantial damage to property
- satisfy the insurance/financial requirements
- give the Minister any information that the Minister asks for about the permit under section 60 of the Act
- at least 2 days before the rocket launch but not more than 10 days before:
 - confirm the day of the rocket launch and the rocket launch window on that day
 - confirm the planned trajectory of the rocket
 - provide information about any subsequent days, and the rocket launch window on those days, that the rocket launch may be attempted if it does not occur on the scheduled rocket launch day
- notify if the rocket launch does not occur on the scheduled day, and you intend to attempt the rocket launch on a subsequent day
- notify of any changes to payloads to be launched
- provide any changes to the assumptions and data used in the risk hazard analysis for the rocket launch, along with a statement from a suitably qualified expert (see [8 Glossary](#)) as to whether the risk hazard analysis continues to fall within the launch safety standards of the [Flight Safety Code](#)
- notify of any changes to the flight path for the rocket launch no less than 2 weeks before the launch period (unless agreed by the Agency)
- as far as is practicable, conduct the rocket launch consistently with the flight path information provided in your application or subsequently to the Minister
- provide copies of any amendments to the launch management plan, flight safety plan or technology security plan for the rocket launch no less than 2 weeks before the launch period (unless agreed by the Agency). You must also ensure that the rocket launch is conducted in accordance with current versions of each of these plans
- your rocket launch must be conducted in accordance with the [Flight Safety Code](#) and that your high power rocket must not cross into the territory or airspace of a foreign country unless an arrangement for your activity is in place between Australia and the foreign country
- notify of any changes to your organisational structure, the identity of key personnel and/or changes of duties of key personnel
- give the Minister, as soon as practicable after the launch, a report on the compliance of your launch with the launch safety standards in the Flight Safety Code and with the assumptions and data used in the risk hazard analysis your launch

² See section 40 of the Act and Part 3 Division 2 of the High Power Rocket Rules.

There may be additional conditions relevant to the circumstances. Penalties may be imposed if you do not comply with the conditions of your permit (see [2.6 Offences and civil penalties](#)).

2.6 Offences and civil penalties

The Criminal Code generally applies to all offences against the Act.

It is an offence to launch a high-power rocket in Australia without appropriate approvals, including an Australian high power rocket permit or authorisation certificate covering the rocket launch. The penalty ranges from:

- for an individual, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding 5500 penalty units or both
- for a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 100,000 penalty units

These matters are outlined in section 13 of the Act.

If you hold an Australian high power rocket permit and contravene a condition of the permit*, you may receive a penalty ranging from:

- for an individual, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, or a fine not exceeding 5500 penalty units or both
- for a body corporate, a fine not exceeding 100,000 penalty units

Contravening a permit condition may also attract a civil penalty of 1,000 penalty units.

These matters are outlined in section 41 of the Act.

***NOTE:** this only applies to breaches of the conditions in 40(a) or 40(b) of the Act, not all permit conditions. Civil penalties may apply to breaches of any of the permit conditions.

3. Authorisation process

3.1 Preparing an application

Before applying you should read and understand these guidelines.

You should then complete and submit an expression of interest form providing supporting materials demonstrating your progress against the application requirements.

We use the information you provide in your expression of interest to inform an application plan workshop.

The purpose of the application plan workshop is to:

- establish the status of your application
- develop a shared understanding of application requirements that need to be met
- set and agree application and assessment timeframes
- clarify roles and responsibilities
- establish principles for how we engage throughout the application and assessment process

Outcomes from this workshop will be documented in an application plan. The application plan will contain:

- details of milestone dates for your proposed rocket launch
- an agreed timeline for delivery of information by you and important feedback events
- comments/notes on information gaps, details on what a complete application may look like and agreed application requirements
- administrative requirements such as document storage, communication channels and points of contact within the Office of the Space Regulator
- useful links to guidance material and legislation

You then complete and submit application modules within the timeframes agreed in your application plan. Timeframes may be reviewed and adjusted during the process if needed.

Your expression of interest, application modules and all subsequent documents must be in writing and in English. If a required document is not in English, you must also include an English language translation.

Documents can undergo multiple revisions before being finalised. Good document management (including version control, consistency across documents and updates to parent documents) is important during the application process and will help to facilitate a smooth and efficient assessment process.

Our assessment is evidence-based. You should include materials to support your claims. Supporting materials should be robust, sufficiently detailed and appropriate for the scope and complexity of your proposed activity. We generally do not consider standalone statements of compliance to be sufficient.

We provide guidance on the information and documents you must submit. It remains, however, your responsibility to obtain the evidence required in your application, including other government approvals. We will not prepare material for these approvals.

Provision of information as set out in these guidelines, and provision of guidance by the Agency in relation to the preparation of your application, does not guarantee that the Minister will decide to grant a permit.

You may contact us during the assessment period if you need to make amendments to your application, for example if information becomes outdated or incorrect. This ensures the Minister's consideration is based on current and accurate information.

NOTE: There are other approvals you may need in order to receive an Australian high power rocket permit. We recommend you initiate discussion with the appropriate authorities early to understand the requirements and timeframes so as not to delay the assessment process.

3.2 Application fees

There are no application fees for an Australian high power rocket permit under the Act.

3.3 Submitting an application

You submit your expression of interest for an Australian high power rocket permit to the Office of the Space Regulator by email to regulation@space.gov.au. If you have any issues submitting your expression of interest by email, contact us (see 7 [Contacting us](#)).

An expression of interest form can be found on our [website](#).

3.4 Authorisation process

There are 4 steps in the authorisation process:

Steps in the authorisation process:	
1. Expression of interest	<p>You submit an expression of interest.</p> <p>We review your expression of interest against each of the requirements in the Act and the High Power Rocket Rules for an Australian high power rocket permit application (see 4. Application requirements).</p> <p>We then book an application plan workshop with you.</p>
2. Application plan workshop	<p>During this workshop we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish the status of your application • develop a shared understanding of application requirements that need to be met • set and agree application and assessment timeframes • clarify roles and responsibilities • establish principles for how we engage throughout the application and assessment process <p>After the workshop we will provide you with a copy of a customised Australian High Power Rocket Permit – Application Modules form and an application plan which will help guide you through the remaining stages of the application process.</p>
3. Assessment	<p>You provide completed modules in line with your application plan.</p> <p>We commence assessment upon receipt of your completed application module. We hold scheduled meetings with you to clarify information submitted and provide feedback on progress.</p> <p>During the assessment process we will consult more widely within government to see if there is any reason, including relating to Australian security, defence or international relations, why an Australian high power rocket permit should not be granted.</p> <p>We then make recommendations to the Minister (or their delegate).</p>

Steps in the authorisation process:

4. Decision

The Minister (or delegate) makes the decision on whether an Australian high power rocket permit should be granted, considering advice from the Agency.

The Minister, through the Agency, may request further information or clarification to support their decision.

3.5 Timing for assessment and decision

We estimate it will take approximately 6 months to assess your application, however assessment timeframes will be discussed and agreed as part of your application plan workshop.

Following the workshop we provide an assessment plan that will clearly outline these timeframes to help guide you through the application and assessment process.

If we find key information missing or inaccurate, or not at an appropriate level of detail we will discuss with you and agree timeframes to submit additional information. This may impact overall assessment timeframes.

We may also request additional information relating to your application.

4. Application requirements

We ask you for information about:

- you
- your company, and which persons or entities have ownership, control or direction over you
- your organisational structure and personnel
- the launch, flight path and high power rocket including history of kind of rocket
- launch facility (if applicable), payload (if applicable) and launch management plan
- your risk hazard analysis
- your flight safety plan
- your emergency plan
- environmental considerations, plan or approvals
- your technology security plan
- your insurance/financial requirements
- contracts, outstanding approvals and matters to be verified

4.1 Information about the applicant

High Power Rocket Rules, section 16

You must provide the following information:

- applicant name
- name, position and contact details of an individual who will act as the contact for the application
- Australian Business Number (ABN), if any
- Australian Company Number (ACN), if you are applying as a company registered under the Corporations Act 2001
- information about which persons or entities have ownership, control, or direction of the applicant, including the nationality of those persons or entities (this may include a corporation that your company is a subsidiary of, significant shareholders or the government administering your company)

4.2 Organisational structure and personnel

High Power Rocket Rules, section 17

You must provide the following information about the organisation applying:

- a description of the organisational structure, including the chain of command
- duties and responsibilities of each position in the chain of command

And for each of the following individuals:

- your chief executive officer or equivalent
- each individual in a position within your organisational structure who has, or would have, authority to direct the launch or operation of the high power rocket
- each individual that has, or would have authority or oversight in relation to:
 - manufacture or maintenance of the high power rocket
 - tracking or communicating with the high power rocket
 - integration of a payload with the high power rocket
 - installation of software in the high power rocket or verification that the software functions correctly
 - verification that the structural system, propulsion system, fuel system, electrical system or electronic system of the high power rocket functions correctly
 - preparing, implementing or monitoring the technology security plan

- if the launch is to be conducted from a facility – each individual in a position that would have authority to direct:
 - operation of the facility or a part of the facility, or
 - operation or maintenance of the grounds systems of the facility

You must provide the following information:

- name, date of birth and place of birth
- address of usual place of residence
- relevant qualifications and experience
- how long the individual has occupied their current position

4.3 Information about launch

High Power Rocket Rules, section 18

You must provide the following information for the proposed launch:

- description of the purpose of the launch
- the facility or place from which the launch of the rocket is proposed, including the latitude, longitude and elevation of the launch
- launch period and launch window (if the launch period extends over more than one day, you must also include an estimated launch day)

4.4 Information about flight path

High Power Rocket Rules, section 19

You must provide the following information for the proposed launch:

- a description of the flight path
- the name and location of any critical asset/s directly under the flight path or within an area where there is a reasonable probability debris (both scheduled and unscheduled) may land
 - you must also explain why you consider the flight path is appropriate and safe given the location of these assets
- the highest planned altitude of the flight and the high power rocket's potential maximum altitude
- the planned range of the flight
- the potential maximum range of the high power rocket
- the sequence of events in the flight and the overall duration of the flight

4.5 Information about high power rocket

High Power Rocket Rules, section 20

You must provide the following information for the high power rocket, including:

- the type of rocket
- the name and address of the designer and of the manufacturer
- the country of manufacture
- a copy, or description, of the manufacturer's quality assurance system
- whether the manufacturer has quality assurance certification in accordance with a recognised standard
- whether the rocket has been manufactured in accordance with the designer's specifications and tested and inspected having regard to those specifications
- whether the rocket has received appropriate import approvals
- the rocket's technical specifications for each of the following:
 - the structural system
 - the propulsion system

- the fuel system
- the electrical system, including power supply and distribution
- each of the electronic systems, including the guidance, communications, flight control, computer and data management systems
- the flight safety system
- whether the rocket is or contains a nuclear weapon or weapon of mass destruction of any other kind
- whether the rocket contains a nuclear power source or any other hazardous materials (including radioactive materials), and if so the amount of each hazardous material

4.6 History of kind of rocket

High Power Rocket Rules, section 21

You must provide the following information on the kind of rocket:

- an outline of the publicly available information on the flight history for the rocket type for the previous 5 years
- the safety record of the kind of rocket
- if the safety record includes anomalies or failures – the measures taken to reduce the risk of future anomalies or failures

4.7 Information about facility (where applicable)

High Power Rocket Rules, section 22

If you intend to conduct the launch from a facility, you must provide the following information about the facility:

- the facility’s safety record
- if the safety record includes anomalies or failures, what was done to reduce the risk of future anomalies or failures
- the licensing or accreditation the facility has received
- the standards to which the facility was designed and built, and under which the facility operates

4.8 Information about payload (if applicable)

High Power Rocket Rules, section 23

If you intend to include one or more payloads, you must provide the following information in relation to each payload on the rocket:

- payload description and purpose
- the owner of the payload
 - if the owner of the payload is a corporation – information about the corporation’s significant shareholders
 - if the owner of the payload is an individual – their address, date and place of birth
- the manufacturer of each payload subsystem and country of manufacture

Subsystem	Component	Manufacturer	Country of Manufacture

- the sensors and other information-gathering devices attached to the payload or powered by it
- whether the payload contains any hazardous materials (including radioactive materials), and if so the amount of each hazardous material

- if the owner of the payload is not an Australian national you must provide a copy of any authorisation or permit from the owner's country obtained in relation to the launch of the payload

4.9 Launch management plan

High Power Rocket Rules, section 24

You must provide a launch management plan, which includes:

- arrangements to ensure ground operation safety, as well as a statement identifying all hazardous ground operations associated with the launch and a description of the procedures to manage them
- procedures for identifying and responding to adverse weather for the launch
- procedures for launch countdown
- procedures to recover from any anomalies or failures during the launch

Your launch management plan must also include:

- arrangements for reporting to the Minister on the launch
- arrangements to ensure launch personnel are properly prepared
- communications arrangements, including:
 - launch area communications
 - communications from drop zones to launch area
 - telemetry communications (including the radio frequencies to be used)
 - emergency communications
- the system you will use for making and keeping records for operation of the high power rocket, and maintaining documentation such as manuals and procedures relating to operation of the rocket
- how you will maintain the high power rocket, and record scheduled and unscheduled maintenance
- a timeline for the launch and flight that identifies all safety-critical events

4.10 Risk hazard analysis

High Power Rocket Rules, section 25

You must provide a risk hazard analysis for the launch. Your risk hazard analysis provides evidence of whether the launch, if carried out according to the procedures detailed in your application, will satisfy the launch safety standards set out in the [Flight Safety Code](#).

You must describe what methodology, assumptions and data were used in your risk hazard analysis.

The methodology must apply the rocket probability of failure set out in the [Flight Safety Code](#) methodology.

If your methodology differs from the risk hazard analysis methodology in the Flight Safety Code in any other respect, you must:

- describe it in a way that can conveniently be assessed against the methodology in the Flight Safety Code
- set out the differences between the two methodologies, and demonstrate, that despite the differences, your methodology is technically sound

This is important, because even if you use a different methodology for other parts of the analysis, your assessment of rocket failure must be consistent with the [Flight Safety Code](#). This information helps the Minister to understand the high power rocket's failure probability.

Your application must also describe any software used to carry out the analysis, including for any software that is not a generally available commercial product, how the software operates to implement the methodology used.

This information assists the Minister to understand the reliability of the software used in a risk hazard analysis, as software errors or user error may compromise its validity.

You must include written confirmation by a suitably qualified expert that the risk hazard analysis and the methodology used in the analysis are technically sound.

4.11 Flight safety plan

High Power Rocket Rules, section 26

You must include a flight safety plan for the launch, which includes:

- what strategies and arrangements you will use to ensure that the launch will be conducted:
 - in a way that reduces the level of risk to third parties to as low as is reasonably practicable
 - within the launch safety standards set out in the [Flight Safety Code](#)
- how you will report to the Minister on the launch's compliance with the launch safety standards

Your application must include written confirmation by a suitably qualified expert, who is approved by the Minister, that the launch will fall within the launch safety standards if carried out according to the flight safety plan. This confirmation may come from the same person who gave written confirmation for the risk hazard analysis.

4.12 Emergency plan

High Power Rocket Rules, section 27

You must include an emergency plan for responding to:

- accidents and incidents involving the high power rocket
- any other kind of emergency at or near the launch site

Your emergency plan must include:

- what responders will do in an accident, incident or other emergency
- a list of the authorities and persons who you will notify in an accident, incident or other emergency
- a description of how you will coordinate any actions to be taken in an accident, incident or other emergency with those authorities or persons
- evacuation procedures for an accident, incident or other emergency
- what procedures you will follow in the case of an accident to:
 - locate the high power rocket or its wreckage
 - recover and remove the high power rocket or its wreckage (in accordance with any necessary permission of the Minister or investigator under the Act)
- arrangements to ensure you would meet your obligations under any Commonwealth, State or Territory law in the event of an accident, incident or other emergency

4.13 Environment

High Power Rocket Rules, section 28

You must provide one of the following for the launch:

- evidence that the environmental plan of the licensed launch facility from which the launch is proposed addresses the environmental impact of the launch

- information about environmental approvals required for the launch under any other law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory
- an assessment of the likely impact of the launch on the environment, and information on how any adverse effects on the environment are to be monitored and mitigated

4.14 Technology security

High Power Rocket Rules, section 29

You must provide a technology security plan for the launch, which includes the following:

- arrangements and procedures for safeguarding the technology you will use in operating the rocket, including:
 - procedures to prevent unauthorised people from having access to the technology
 - your cybersecurity strategy, including a written assessment of the adequacy of the strategy by a person with suitable qualifications and experience
- if there is an agreement of any kind in force between Australia and another country relating to safeguarding all or part of your technology – information on how your plan ensures that Australia gives effect to its obligations under the agreement

4.15 Insurance/financial requirements

High Power Rocket Rules, section 30

You must provide evidence that you are either insured or have direct financial responsibility (to the extent required by subsection 48[4] of the Act) against any liability that you (the permit holder) might incur under this Act to pay compensation for any damage to third parties that the launch causes.

Insurance

The minimum amount of insurance required is either \$100 million or the amount determined using the [Maximum Probable Loss Methodology](#) (MPL), whichever is lower. If you intend to rely on the amount calculated under the MPL methodology, you must provide the calculations and the name of the person who made them.

Direct financial responsibility

You may also show direct financial responsibility for the launch for an amount not less than the \$100 million or lesser amount determined by the MPL methodology. To do so you must provide evidence that:

- you have a sufficient amount of available assets that could be used to meet any liability that you might incur under the Act (for assets held wholly or partly by another person or body you must show that that person/body will make them available if required), or
- you are otherwise able to meet any liability that you might incur under the Act to pay compensation for any damage to third parties that the launch causes

The Minister may request additional information to show that you have the assets or are otherwise able to meet the liabilities as you have claimed.

4.16 Contracts

High Power Rocket Rules, section 31

You must provide copies of any contracts entered, and information on any contracts that you propose to enter, for the purposes of your launch. This includes, but is not limited to:

- any contracts for use or lease of facilities
- any contracts for others to undertake activities connected with the launch
- any contracts for carrying payloads

4.17 Outstanding approvals

High Power Rocket Rules, section 32

You must provide:

- a list of all activities in relation to your launch for which you need an approval under any other Commonwealth law or law of a State or Territory, but have not yet obtained one
- the arrangements (including the time frame) for obtaining each of these approvals

4.18 Matters to be verified

High Power Rocket Rules, section 33

You must provide:

- a list of matters mentioned in your launch management plan or technology security plan yet to be verified or validated, (for example, verifying that firewalls are operating to prevent unauthorised network access)
- the arrangements (including time frame) for obtaining these verifications or validations

4.19 Additional information

High Power Rocket Rules, section 34

You may include any other information relevant to demonstrating whether the criteria in the Act and High Power Rocket Rules for granting an Australian high power rocket permit are met (see [2.4 Criteria for granting an Australian high power rocket permit](#)).

5. If you are granted a permit

5.1 Keeping us informed

When you have been granted a permit, you must notify us in writing if there are any changes to the information submitted in your application. Depending on the circumstances, your Australian high power rocket permit may need to be varied, transferred, suspended or revoked.

5.2 Varying, revoking, transferring or suspending an existing permit

You may apply for a variation to an Australian high power rocket permit, including:

- varying the launch facility or place
- conditions on the permit
- extending the period of the permit

When applying for a variation you should include a description and reason for the variation, and any supporting material you believe will assist the Minister in deciding.

The Minister may also vary, revoke or transfer a high power rocket on their own initiative. If the Minister considers there may be grounds to do this, they must:

- give you written notice of their opinion specifying the reasons for that opinion, and
- invite you to make a written submission about the matter within a reasonable period specified in the notice

In deciding whether to vary, revoke or transfer the permit, the Minister must consider your written submission.

The Minister may suspend your permit:

- if you have contravened a permit condition
- if insurance requirements are not considered to be satisfied
- if for reasons relevant to the security, defence or international relations of Australia, the permit should be suspended
- if an incident involving the high power rocket covered by the permit occurs during the liability period for the launch of the rocket

5.3 Transferring an Australian high power rocket permit

Your Australian high power rocket permit may be transferred on application by the transferee. You will need to provide a statement with the transfer application explaining why the transfer is being sought.

The transfer application must include all material required for an Australian high power rocket permit application. This may include any information or materials from your original application if that information or material is still correct.

6. How we use your information

6.1 Confidential information

We collect information:

- to assess applications to conduct space activities
- to monitor a permit, licence or certificate holder's compliance with their obligations under the Act, the relevant rules and the conditions of their permit, licence or certificate

We will treat the information you give us as confidential if it meets all the following conditions:

- you clearly identify the information as confidential and explain why we should treat it as confidential at the time you provide the information
- the information is commercially sensitive
- disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else
- you provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential

Unless the information you provide to us is identified as confidential information, we may share your information with other government agencies or third parties for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- the administration and assessment of your application
- to ascertain if there is any reason why a licence or permit should not be granted
- to third parties for the purposes of conducting a technical review of your application, under a deed of confidentiality

We may disclose confidential information:

- to our Commonwealth employees and contractors, to help us to assess your application
- to the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner
- to the responsible Minister or Assistant Minister
- to the Prime Minister
- to a House or a Committee of the Australian Parliament

We may also disclose confidential information if:

- we are required or authorised by law to disclose it
- you agree to the information being disclosed, or
- someone other than us has made the confidential information public

6.2 Personal information

We must treat your personal information according to the [Australian Privacy Principles](#) (APPs) and the [Privacy Act 1988](#) (Cth). This includes letting you know:

- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- to whom we give your personal information.

You can read the [Privacy Policy](#) on the department's website for more information on:

- what is personal information
- how we collect, use, disclose and store your personal information
- how you can access and correct your personal information.

6.3 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government are subject to the [Freedom of Information Act 1982](#) (Cth) (FOI Act). The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI

Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

7. Contacting us

We encourage you to contact us early in planning for any space activity that requires authorisation under the Act. Early engagement may help to resolve questions specific to your activity.

Email regulation@space.gov.au
Phone 1800 487 182 (within Australia)
+61 2 6276 1166 (outside Australia)
Head office: Lot 14, McEwin Building, North Terrace, Adelaide, SA 5000
Post: Office of the Space Regulator
Australian Space Agency
GPO Box 2013
Canberra ACT 2601

8. Glossary

The following are terms used in these Guidelines with a particular meaning, generally defined in the Act or the Rules.

Term	Definition
Act	The Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018 .
Australian national	The meaning is defined in the Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an Australian citizen • an Australian resident • a body incorporated by or under a law of the Commonwealth, of a State or of a Territory, or • the Commonwealth, a State or a Territory
Australian resident	The meaning is defined in the Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018 : An individual who resides in Australia and is the holder (within the meaning of the Migration Act 1958) of a permanent visa (within the meaning of that Act)
Australian Space Agency	A separately branded division of the Department. The Agency, through the Office of the Space Regulator, is responsible for administering the Act and the Rules.
Authorisation certificate	The meaning is defined in the Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018 : A certificate issued under section 46U of the Act. (An authorisation certificate is an authorisation for an activity that may otherwise be unsuitable under another authorisation.)
Department	The Department of Industry, Science and Resources.
Flight Safety Code	The Flight Safety Code is a non-legislative publication incorporated by reference in the General Rules and the High Power Rocket Rules. It provides a quantitative approach to managing safety risks associated with certain civil space and high power rocket activities in Australia to as low as reasonably practicable. The Flight Safety Code is used when applying for Australian launch permits, Australian high power rocket permits or certain return authorisations.
General Rules	The Space (Launches and Returns) (General) Rules 2019 .

Term	Definition
High power rocket	<p>The meaning is defined in the Space (Launches and Returns) (High Power Rocket) Rules 2019:</p> <p>For the purposes of the definition of high power rocket in section 8 of the Act, an object is a high power rocket if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is a rocket propelled by a motor or motors with a combined total impulse greater than 889,600 Newton seconds; or • it is a rocket propelled by a motor or motors with a combined total impulse greater than 40,960 Newton seconds and is fitted with a system or systems that allow active control of its trajectory <p>The launch of a high power rocket must not travel beyond 100km above mean sea level (see the Act).</p>
High Power Rocket Rules	The Space (Launches and Returns) (High Power Rocket) Rules 2019 .
Insurance Rules	The Space (Launches and Returns) (Insurance) Rules 2019 .
Minister	Means the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the <i>Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018</i> .
Payload	Payload commonly refers to any object that goes over or returns from over 100km, excluding the launch vehicle. For example, it can refer to an entire satellite, a satellite bus, or anything the bus carries. It also captures any object that the launch or return vehicle carries, but which may not leave the vehicle.
Penalty unit	A standard amount of money used to compute penalties for breaches of law. For offences committed from 1 January 2023, the Commonwealth penalty unit is \$275. Penalty units are automatically indexed on 1 July every three years in line with the All Groups Consumer Price Index (CPI).
Personal information	<p>Has the same meaning as in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth):</p> <p>Information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether the information or opinion is true or not; and • whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not
Space object	<p>The meaning is defined in the Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an object the whole or a part of which is to go into or come back from an area beyond the distance of 100km above mean sea level; or • any part of such an object, even if the part is to go only some of the way towards or back from an area beyond the distance of 100km above mean sea level.

Term	Definition
Suitably Qualified Expert (SQE)	<p>A suitably qualified expert (SQE) performs flight safety assurance functions for civil launch and return activities carried out from Australia. These functions give assurance the launch and/or return activity falls within Australian launch safety standards. SQE functions are distinct from individuals, companies or organisations with suitable qualifications and experience who provide a written assessment of the adequacy of an environmental plan or cybersecurity strategy.</p> <p>SQE: Risk Hazard Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the purposes of an Australian high power rocket permit you must include written confirmation by a suitably qualified expert that the risk hazard analysis and the methodology used in the analysis are technically sound • the SQE who provides written confirmation of your risk hazard analysis for your high power rocket launch does not require approval to be an SQE from the Minister <p>SQE: Flight Safety Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the purposes of an Australian high power rocket permit you must include written confirmation by a suitably qualified expert, who is approved by the Minister, that the launch will fall within the launch safety standards if carried out according to the flight safety plan and Australian high power rocket permit • the written confirmation of the flight safety plan may come from the same person who gave written confirmation for the risk hazard analysis
United Nations space treaties	<p>The meaning is defined in the Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018:</p> <p>The United Nations space treaties means the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Liability Convention • the Registration Convention • the Outer Space Treaty • the Moon and other Celestial Bodies Agreement; and • the Astronauts and Objects agreement.