International Standard

ISO 14620-1

Space systems — Safety requirements —

Part 1: System safety

Systèmes spatiaux — Exigences de sécurité —

Partie 1: Sécurité système

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 20, *Aircraft and space vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 14, *Space systems and operations*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 14620-1:2018), which has been technically revised.

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The main change is as follows:

— definitions have been revised.

A list of all parts in the ISO 14620 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

The ISO 14620 series is intended to be applied together for the management, engineering and product assurance in space projects and applications.

The safety policy is implemented through a structured system safety programme supported by risk assessment. Hazardous system and environmental characteristics, as well as functions with potentially dangerous failure effects, are systematically identified and evaluated. Potential hazards are addressed through a reduction process in which they are first eliminated from design and operations, then minimized, and, if necessary, controlled and verified. Any residual risks are progressively assessed to ensure conformance to safety requirements, support design decisions, and in order to prioritise risk contributors, allocate resources, monitor progress in risk reduction, and inform safety-related decision-making. The effectiveness of hazard and risk control measures is formally verified to enable safety validation and risk acceptance. Finally, overall safety conformance is evaluated, and approval is obtained from the relevant authorities for both crewed and uncrewed projects.

The imposition of these requirements on the project suppliers' activities requires that the customer's project product assurance and safety organization also respond to these requirements in a manner which is commensurate with the project's safety criticality.

Launch site operations are described by ISO 14620-2 and flight safety systems in ISO 14620-3.

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Space systems — Safety requirements —

Part 1:
System safety

1 Scope

This document specifies the safety programme and the technical safety requirements that are implemented in order to conform to the safety policy defined in ISO 14300-2. It is intended to protect flight and ground personnel, the launch vehicle, associated payloads, ground support equipment, the general public, public and private property, and the environment from hazards associated with space systems.

This document is applicable to all space projects where during any project phase there exists the potential for hazards to personnel or the general public, space flight systems, ground support equipment, facilities, public or private property, or the environment.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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ISO 14300-1, *Space systems — Programme management — Part 1: Structuring of a project*

ISO 14300-2, *Space systems — Programme management — Part 2: Product assurance*

ISO 14620-2, *Space systems — Safety requirements — Part 2: Launch site operations*

ISO 14620-3, *Space systems — Safety requirements — Part 3: Flight safety systems*

ISO 17666, *Space systems — Programme management — Risk management*

ISO 21347, *Space systems — Fracture and damage control*

ISO 24113, *Space systems — Space debris mitigation requirements*

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1.1
accident
mishap
undesired event arising from operation of any project-specific items which results in:

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a) human death or injury;

b) loss of, or damage to, hardware, software or facilities which can then affect the accomplishment of the mission;

c) loss of, or damage to, public or private property; and

d) detrimental effects on the environment

[SOURCE: ISO 10795:2019, 3.8]

3.1.2
anomaly
gap between a current situation and an expected one

Note 1 to entry: An anomaly justifies an investigation that can lead to the discovery of a nonconformance, a defect.

Note 2 to entry: A deviation may be declared, foreseen or requested.

Note 3 to entry: An anomaly is often detected in comparison with what seems to be standard or with the expected use.

[SOURCE: ISO 10795:2019, 3.13]

3.1.3
cause
circumstance, condition, event or action that produces an effect or gives rise to any action, phenomenon or condition

Note 1 to entry: Cause and effect are correlative terms.

Note 2 to entry: Specific to this document, cause, when used in the context of hazard analysis, is the action or condition by which a *hazardous event* (3.1.11) is initiated (an initiating event). The cause can arise as the result of *failure* (3.1.9), human error, design inadequacy, induced or natural environment, system configuration or operational mode(s).

[SOURCE: ISO 10795:2019, 3.35]

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3.1.4
common cause failure
failure (3.1.9) of multiple items occurring from a single *cause* (3.1.3) which is common to all of them

[SOURCE: Adapted from NUREG/CR-2300 PRA:1982, ISO 10795:2019, 3.4]

3.1.5
common mode failure
failure (3.1.9) of multiple identical items that fail in the same mode

Note 1 to entry: Common mode failures are a particular case of *common cause failures* (3.1.5).

[SOURCE: NUREG/CR-2300 PRA:1982, ISO 10795:2019, 3.46]

3.1.6
emergency
situation where *hazardous events* (3.1.11) have occurred with potentially catastrophic or critical consequences requiring an immediate action

[SOURCE: Adapted from EN 16601-00-01:2015, 2.3.73]

3.1.7
fail safe
design property of a system, or subsystem (or part of it), which prevents its *failures* (3.1.9) from resulting in critical or catastrophic consequences (i.e. remain safe after one failure)

Note 1 to entry: Maintaining safety following two independent failures is referred to “fail safe – fail safe”.

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[SOURCE: ISO 26871:2020, 3.1.32]

3.1.8
failure
event resulting in an item being no longer able to perform its required function

Note 1 to entry: "Failure" is an event, as distinguished from "fault" which is a state.

[SOURCE: EN 16601-00-01:2015, 2.3.81]

3.1.9
fault
state of an item characterized by inability to perform as required

Note 1 to entry: A fault can be the result of a failure of the item itself or can exist without prior failure.

Note 2 to entry: A fault can generate a failure.

[SOURCE: EN 16601-00-01:2015, 2.3.84]

3.1.10
hazard
existing or potential condition of an item that can result in an *accident* (3.1.1)

Note 1 to entry: This condition can be associated with the design, manufacturing, operation or environment.

Note 2 to entry: Hazards are not events but potential threats to safety.

[SOURCE: EN 16601-00-01:2015, 2.3.102]

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3.1.11
hazardous event
accident (3.1.1) resulting from a *hazard* (3.1.10)

[SOURCE: EN 16601-00-01:2015, 2.3.103]

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3.1.12
inhibit
<noun> design feature that prevents a function from undesirable execution

Note 1 to entry: An inhibit can be software or hardware.

[SOURCE: EN 16601-00-01:2015, 2.3.109]

3.1.13
residual risk
risk remaining after implementation of risk reduction measures

[SOURCE: ISO 17666:2025, 3.10]

3.1.14
safe state
state that does not lead to critical or catastrophic consequences

3.1.15
safety authority
body defining and making applicable (project specific) safety requirements and providing confirmation of conformance to project specific safety requirements

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3.1.16
safety-critical function
function that, if lost or degraded, or as a result of incorrect or inadvertent operation, would result in catastrophic or critical consequences

[SOURCE: ISO 10795:2019, 3.212]

3.1.17
safing
action of containment or control of emergency and warning situations or placing a system (or part thereof) in a predetermined safe condition

[SOURCE: EN 16601-00-01:2015, 2.3.180]

3.1.18
system safety
application of engineering and management principles, criteria and techniques to optimize all aspects of safety within the constraints of operational effectiveness, time and cost throughout all phases of the system life cycle

3.2 Abbreviated terms

CCB	configuration control board
CDR	critical design review
EEE	electronic, electrical, electromechanical
FAR	flight acceptance review
FMECA	failure modes, effects and criticality analysis
FSR	flight safety review
FTA	fault free analysis
GSE	ground support equipment
HSIA	hardware-software interaction analysis
MIP	mandatory inspection point
NRB	nonconformance review board
PDR	preliminary design review
TRB	test review board
SVTL	safety verification tracking log

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4 System safety programme

4.1 Scope

a) The scope and content of the safety programme is to establish a safety management system to implement provisions of this document commensurate with the programme requirements.

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