

Launch Final Rule Issue Clarification Record

1. Date:
January 16, 2003
2. Subgroup/FAA Person Seeking Clarification:
Flight Safety System/Michael Dook
3. Company/Industry Person Contacted:
Lockheed Martin/Sri Iyengar 303-977-3211
4. Issue:
Responsibility
5 Discussion:
<p>Mr. Iyengar was asked to elaborate on his concerns with regard to the launch operator's responsibility at the federal launch ranges. The following summaries Mr. Iyengar's points made during the discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In general, the industry understands that it is responsible for the safety of its launches. However, there are systems and analyses that would be required under the proposed rule for which the AF takes primary responsibility and for which the launch operator has little or no input. Even if a launch operator wanted to get more involved in those areas, it is not clear that the AF would allow it.2. The FAA launch site safety assessments may find that a federal range currently complies with the proposed rule. However, the industry is concerned for the future. What would happen if a required system were to become deficient over time? Currently the AF personnel feel the responsibility for that system and any launch delays that might occur due to that system. Those responsible make sure the system is brought back into compliance or they bring the issue forward and work it through the relief process as quickly as possible to avoid any costly launch delays.
6. Conclusion:
Mr. Iyengar's input has been added to the public record and is being taken into consideration as the FAA continues development of the proposed rule.