

CLASS EXEMPTION ORDERS – Concept Overview

What are they:

Under subsection 4(3) of the *Remote Sensing Space Systems Act*, the Minister of Foreign Affairs may make orders exempting

- any person or remote sensing space system, or
- any class of persons, system or data

from the application of any provisions of the *Act* or its regulations. When the Minister makes a class exemption order, it automatically applies to existing licences, licence applications, and future licences in respect of all persons, remote sensing space systems and data that fall within its scope.

Experience under the *Act* has shown that exemption orders in a range of licences could have been drafted on a class basis.

Advantages of class exemption orders

No need for a new or amended Minister's exemption order every time a new satellite is brought within the scope of a licence. This speeds up the process.

Unlike individual exemption orders, class exemption orders must be published (but only once). As a result, remote sensing satellite owners and system operators will know in advance what class exemptions may apply in respect of their operations.

Publication of class exemption orders will help promote both the appearance and fact of equal treatment of licence applications.