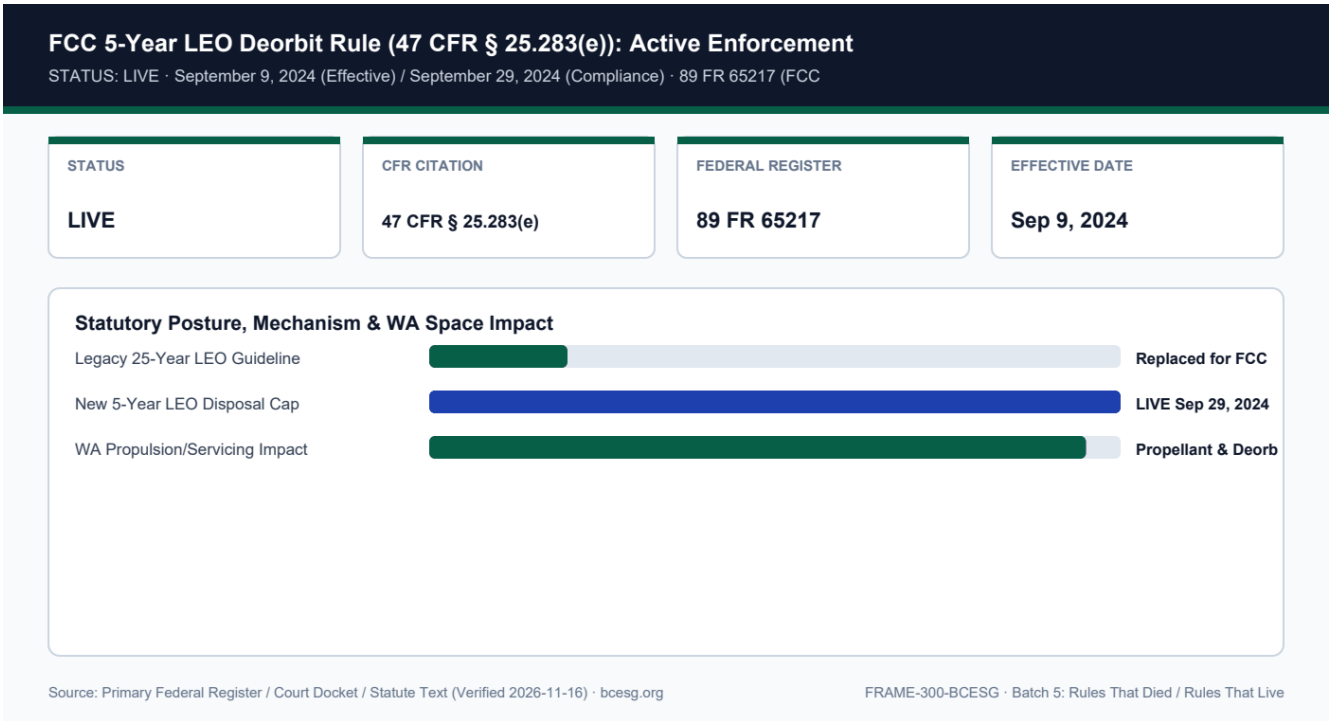
BC ESG · RULES THAT DIED / RULES THAT LIVE · STATUS: LIVE

FCC 5-Year Post-Mission Disposal Rule (47 CFR § 25.283(e)): LIVE — Effective Sept 9, 2024 (89 FR 65217)

Published: November 16, 2026 · Canonical URL: https://bcesg.org/wa-space-rule-fcc-5-year-deorbit-live/

Rule: FCC 5-Year Post-Mission Orbital Debris Disposal Rule (47 CFR § 25.283(e)) | **Status:** LIVE | **Instrument:** 89 FR 65217 (FCC 22-74 Second Report and Order; 47 CFR § 25.283(e)) | **Date:** September 9, 2024 (Effective) / September 29, 2024 (Compliance)

Verdict & Proof: The FCC 5-year post-mission disposal rule is LIVE. Published August 9, 2024 (89 FR 65217) and codified at 47 CFR § 25.283(e), it took effect September 9, 2024 (compliance date September 29, 2024), replacing the legacy 25-year LEO disposal guideline for FCC-licensed space stations.



Parameter	Legacy Guideline	Current FCC Rule (47 CFR § 25.283(e))
Max LEO Post-Mission Lifetime	25 years	5 years (as soon as practicable)
Effective / Compliance Date	Pre-2024 guidance	Sep 9, 2024 / Sep 29, 2024 (89 FR 65217)
Covered Licenses	Part 25 / 5 / 97	All new FCC-licensed LEO space stations

Who Owes What by When: 5-Year LEO Disposal & Application Disclosures

Under 47 CFR § 25.283(e) (89 FR 65217, Aug 9, 2024; implementing FCC 22-74), operators of non-geostationary satellites passing through or operating in LEO (<2,000 km) must dispose of spacecraft via atmospheric reentry as soon as practicable and no later than 5 years after end of mission.

The rule took effect September 9, 2024, with operational compliance beginning September 29, 2024 (subject to limited grandfathering for pre-existing licensed constellations). Satellite builders in Washington (Amazon Leo, BlackSky, Starfish Space, Gravitics, Portal Space Systems) must embed 5-year deorbit propellant budgets, drag devices, or servicing interfaces into FCC Part 25 / Part 5 / Part 97 applications.

Batch 4 vs. Batch 5 Scope

While Batch 4 covered how satellite primes flow 5-year deorbit requirements down to component and propulsion suppliers, this Batch 5 brief establishes the underlying FCC statutory mandate and effective dates.

Verified Primary Sources & Internal Bridges

• Federal Register: FCC Orbital Debris Mitigation (89 FR 65217): https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/08/09/2024-17486/space-innovation-mitigation-of-orbital-debris-in-the-new-space-age

• eCFR 47 CFR § 25.283: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-47/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-25/subpart-D/section-25.283