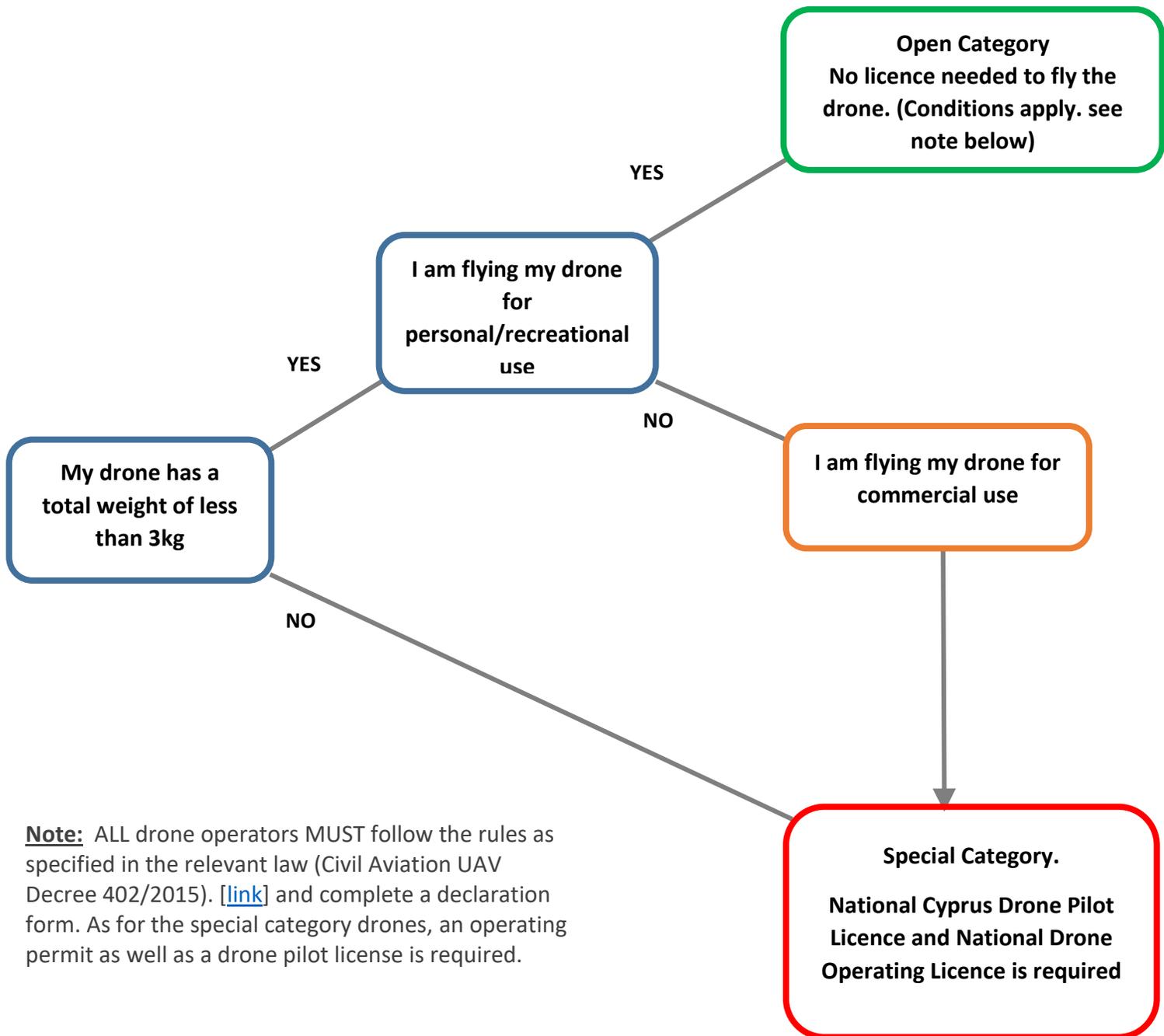


# Drone regulation | FAQ

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## Does someone need to have a license to fly a drone in Cyprus?

This depends on such parameters as the maximum take-off weight (MTOW), and the purpose for which the drone is used).



**Note:** ALL drone operators MUST follow the rules as specified in the relevant law (Civil Aviation UAV Decree 402/2015). [[link](#)] and complete a declaration form. As for the special category drones, an operating permit as well as a drone pilot license is required.

## Is someone allowed to bring his/her drone to Cyprus when on holiday? Does he have to declare it in Customs?

Yes, it is allowed for a tourist to bring his/her drone provided that its maximum take off weight is under 3kg. It is not required to declare it with Customs but must register it with the Department of Civil Aviation by sending the DCA/UAV/01 Declaration form. [[form link](#)]

## What is the OPEN and the SPECIAL category?

- The OPEN category includes unmanned aircraft (drone) with a total take-off mass of less than 3kg, which is only used for non-commercial recreational, sports, training, racing or display purposes.
- The SPECIAL category covers all drones with maximum take-off weight exceeding 3kg of the nature irrespective of their use (commercial / non-commercial etc.) and all drones that are used for commercial activities (irrespective ) of their weight).

## Is someone required to register his/her drone?

Yes, drone owners are expected to register their aircraft with the Civil Aviation Department by e-mail, [uav@dca.mcw.gov.cy](mailto:uav@dca.mcw.gov.cy), providing the information specified in the form: ΤΠΑ/ΜΕΑ/01 - DCA/ UAV/01. [[form link](#)]. There is no charge for registering.

## What are the flying restrictions for drones?

- Maximum flying altitude/height is up to 50 meters (170 feet) above ground or sea level for the Open category and up to 120 meters (400 feet) above ground or sea level for the Special Category. (Exemptions may be granted to special category drone operators by the Department of Civil Aviation).
- Direct visual contact with the drone is mandatory and the distance between the operator and the drone should not exceed 500 meters.
- Do not fly close to residential areas and people
- Safety distance of 1 kilometer from residential areas;

- Safety distance of 500 meters from isolated buildings, people, vehicles, animals, structures, etc. except with the owner's/person's consent.
- Do not fly close to airport and heliports. Safety distance of at least eight (8) kilometers from airports and at least three (3) kilometers from heliports.
- It is not permitted to fly a drone at night.

## Are there any areas reserved for drone operations?

There are two model air strips that can be used by drone operators subject to the strip owner's approval, in Marki and Tersefanou.

## Are there any other limitations to keep in mind?

- Drones should not be flown within prohibited, restricted, dangerous and reserved areas as mentioned in the relevant publications of the Department of Civil Aviation.
- Aerial photography/videography of National Guard installations and infrastructure is prohibited.
- Drones should not be flown in areas where helicopters or aircraft are operating for the purpose of Search and Rescue, Fire Fighting or Military exercises.
- It is not allowed to fly over military installations, utility installations, and archaeological sites. The only exception is when the owner or the relevant competent Authority grants permission.
- It is not permitted to drop or eject/fire any object from a drone.
- The drone operator should comply with the laws in force in respect to the Right to Privacy and Personal Data Protection.

## How do I obtain a license for operating a drone for commercial purposes?

If a drone is to be operated for commercial purposes the Department of Civil Aviation shall be notified ([uav@dca.mcw.gov.cy](mailto:uav@dca.mcw.gov.cy)) and the owner/operator must obtain an Operating License for the Special Category. Such license is issued by the Department, subject to an application by a

registered company, submission of necessary evidences / manuals and inspection / demonstration of competence. Amongst other requirements, the issue of the Drone Operating licence requires the operator to be a holder of a Drone Pilot Licence and to provide for Insurance cover to third parties for the minimum amount of one million euros.

## How long does it take to issue a commercial drone license?

Currently the process is taking up to a year. Organizations interested to perform ad hoc operations are advised to operate under the umbrella of existing licensed operators. Details of such Operators can be found on the DCA website. [\[link\]](#). For commercial drone license application, please send a formal letter to the Director of Civil Aviation at [director@dca.mcw.gov.cy](mailto:director@dca.mcw.gov.cy)

## Is a drone license from another country valid in Cyprus?

No. Currently the Cyprus Department of Civil Aviation does not recognise drone licenses of other countries.

## Are there any penalties for those who are flying their Drone illegally?

Yes. Those who contravene the law are subject to penalties in accordance with the UAV Decree 402/2015 and the Cyprus Civil Aviation Act of 2002(L213(I)/2002) as amended.