

GUIDANCE ON THE OPERATION OF DRONES

SPECIAL CONDITIONS/RESTRICTIONS FOR FLIGHTS OF SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (SUAs) / RPAS / DRONES WITHIN THE CYPRUS AIRSPACE

A. For flights made with a Drone of a maximum mass of less than 2 kg., flying at a maximum height of up to 30 meters (100 feet) above the ground level no authorisation is needed by the Civil Aviation Department provided that

1. The operator has acquired the necessary training to handle the particular aircraft system.
2. The operator does not act under the influence of alcohol, narcotics drugs and other substances that may impair judgment and reaction.
3. The operator prevents or prohibits the discharge of any object or material during flight that can cause injury or damage.
4. The operator flies the aircraft only if reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made and interrupts the flights immediately when conditions become unsuitable.
5. The operator maintains direct, unaided visual contact with the aircraft maintaining a distance of not more than 150 meters in order to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions.
6. Each operator is allowed to operate only one aircraft at a time.
7. Flights over or within 150 metres of any organised open air assembly of more than 1000 people is prohibited.
8. A safety distance of 150 meters is maintained, away from residential or congested areas and 50 meters from people, animals, plants, etc., excluding operator, supporting staff, vehicles or other assistive devices that serve the flight.
9. A safety distance of at least 6 km from any airport/airfield and 1.5 km from heliports is maintained.
10. During take-off or landing a safety distance of 30 meters from people excluding the operator or other person who is under the control of the operator is maintained.

11. Flights within prohibited, restricted, danger and reserved areas as mentioned in the relevant aeronautical publications of the Cyprus Civil Aviation Department and flights above, in or near military installations, utility installations, archaeological sites and private facilities are not allowed except with the permission of the owner or the appropriate authority.
12. Aerial Photography of National Guard installations is strictly prohibited.
13. Police and local municipal authorities should be informed by the operator as necessary
14. Drone Operators shall register with the Civil Aviation Department Email uav@dca.mcw.gov.cy giving details of their name and contact details and also technical specifications (model and serial no.) of the drone in their possession, prior to initiating flying.

B. For Flights of Drones within Approved Aeromodelling Sites, no special permission is required by the Civil Aviation Department provided that

1. The operator has acquired the necessary training to handle the particular aircraft system.
2. The operator does not act under the influence of alcohol, narcotics drugs and other substances that may impair judgment and reaction.
3. The operator prevents or prohibits the discharge of any object or material during flight that can cause injury or damage.
4. The operator flies the aircraft only if reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made and interrupts the flights immediately when conditions become unsuitable.
5. The operator maintains direct, unaided visual contact with the aircraft maintaining a distance of not more than 500 meters in order to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions.
6. The flights should not exceed the height of 400 feet above the ground.
7. A safety distance of 150 meters away from residential or congested areas and 50 meters from people, animals, plants, etc .,excluding operator, supporting staff, vehicles or other assistive devices that serve the flight is maintained.

8. During take-off or landing a safety distance of 30 meters from people excluding the operator or other person who is under the control of the operator is maintained.
9. All flights must be covered with third party liability insurance for property damage and bodily injury.

C. For any flight made with a Drone not meeting any of the above conditions a special permit issued by the Civil Aviation Department is required. For this purpose a written application should be submitted to the Director, Civil Aviation Department for assessment.

Drone operators engaged within the Cyprus Airspace to carry out work for film and TV productions, advertising agencies, marketing or other publicity events, photographic work for large property developments or survey or infrastructure inspections at industrial sites should apply to the Director of the Cyprus Civil Aviation Department for special aerial photography permission. The form [DCA/AF/3/Drones](#) - Application for aerial photography can be used as applicable. Applications should be submitted at least 10 working days in advance of the intended operation.

Each application will be evaluated on a case to case basis.

IMPORTANT NOTES (applicable to all Drone operations)

1. The DCA permission process to operate a Drone is only intended to assist in ensuring the flights can be accomplished safely. The permission does not extend rights to any other purpose such as the collection of images, data or for advertising purposes.
2. The collection, storage and use of images or other data is subject to the applicable data protection laws and regulations in the Republic of Cyprus and Drone operators should ensure that they are complying with any such applicable requirements or exemptions.
3. The DCA permission only addresses the flight safety aspects of the flight and does not constitute permission to disregard the legitimate interests of other statutory bodies such as the Police or the local authorities.
4. The operator has full responsibility for the safe operation of the Drone.