



UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (UAV)

BACKGROUND

Unmanned Aircraft Vehicle (UAV) or Drone is an aircraft operated with no pilot on board. A UAV operator is a person, organization or enterprise engaged in, or offering to engage in a UAV operation.

In late 2014, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) has established a regulatory framework (Memorandum Circular 21-14) to regulate the operation of UAVs for commercial purposes. Hence, the use of UAVs solely for model, sports, hobby and recreational activities are exempted from the regulation. However, certain restrictions should follow to assure the highest security and safety of the public.

CONCEPT OF OPERATION

The operation of UAVs should be regulated in a manner proportionate to the risk of the specific operations. For operation specifically for model, sports, hobby and recreational activities need not be required to obtain an authorization from the CAAP. Example of these are photography and videography for personal use.

For those who intend to operate a Commercial UAVs, such as: Filming, Aerial Mapping, Surveying and as long as with revenue purposes, will be required to acquire a Certification from the CAAP.

The following safety risks considered why the CAAP has come up with the regulatory guidelines:

- Mid-air collision with manned aircraft;
- Harm to people; and
- Damage to property in particular critical and sensitive infrastructure.

GENERAL UAV OPERATIONS

All operations of UAVs, regardless of their nature should consider the general guidelines stated in Philippine Civil Aviation Regulations Part 11.11.1.2 (General UAV Operations) when operating a UAVs in Philippine airspace to assure the highest level of safety and security of the public.

The UAV must be flown:

- 30 meters beyond a person who is not directly associated with the operation of the UAV;
- An altitude not exceeding 400ft Above Ground Level (AGL);
- Outside 10 Km radius from the Aerodrome Reference Point (ARP); and
- The UAV shall stay clear of populated area unless an approval from the CAAP has been granted.

CERTIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL UAVS

When the operation of a UAV is intended for revenue purposes or commonly known as Commercial operations, the UAV Operator is required to obtain Certifications from the CAAP, such as: UAV Controller Certificate of Authorization, UAV Certificate of Registration and UAV Operator Certificate of Authorization.

UAV CONTROLLER CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION

A UAV Controller Certificate of Authorization is required for the controller of the UAV who intends to operate a commercial UAV.

In order to acquire this Authorization, the applicant should hold and passed the following requirement:

- Knowledge Test on the Philippine Civil Aviation Regulations (this test covers the operation of a UAV in Philippine Airspace which is in accordance with the rules and regulations stated in Philippine Civil Aviation Regulations Part 11; 11.11;
- Completed a training course conducted by the UAV manufacturer; and
- At least five (5) hours experience in operating UAVs outside controller airspace.

These requirements should be submitted to the Licensing and Certificate Department (LCD) under the Flight Standards Inspectorate Service (FSIS) for processing.

UAV CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Anyone who owns a UAV to be used for commercial purposes, the UAV should be registered as required and in accordance with the regulatory guidelines stated in Philippine Civil Aviation Part 4 (Aircraft Registration and Marking).

An Operator who wishes to register a UAV must submit an application for UAV Certificate of Registration and should be accompanied by evidences identifying ownership or lease-agreement to the UAV. Other requirements may be needed as prescribed in Aircraft Registry Manual.

The registration of UAV may be applied at the Airworthiness Department of the Flight Standards Inspectorate Service.

UAV OPERATOR CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION

The last Certificate needed in order to operate a commercial UAV in the Philippines is the UAV Operator Certificate of Authorization.

This Authorization is being given to a company, organization or government entities who wishes to operate a Commercial UAVs or with revenue purposes. The application for the said Certificate should be submitted to the Flight Operations Department under the Flight Standards Inspectorate Service.

The applicant should submit the following necessary documents in order to facilitate the application for the UAV Operator Certificate of Authorization:

- Operations Manual and Flight Manual;
- UAV Insurance/Third Party Liability (TPL);
- UAV Certificate of Registration; and