



Regulation Governing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

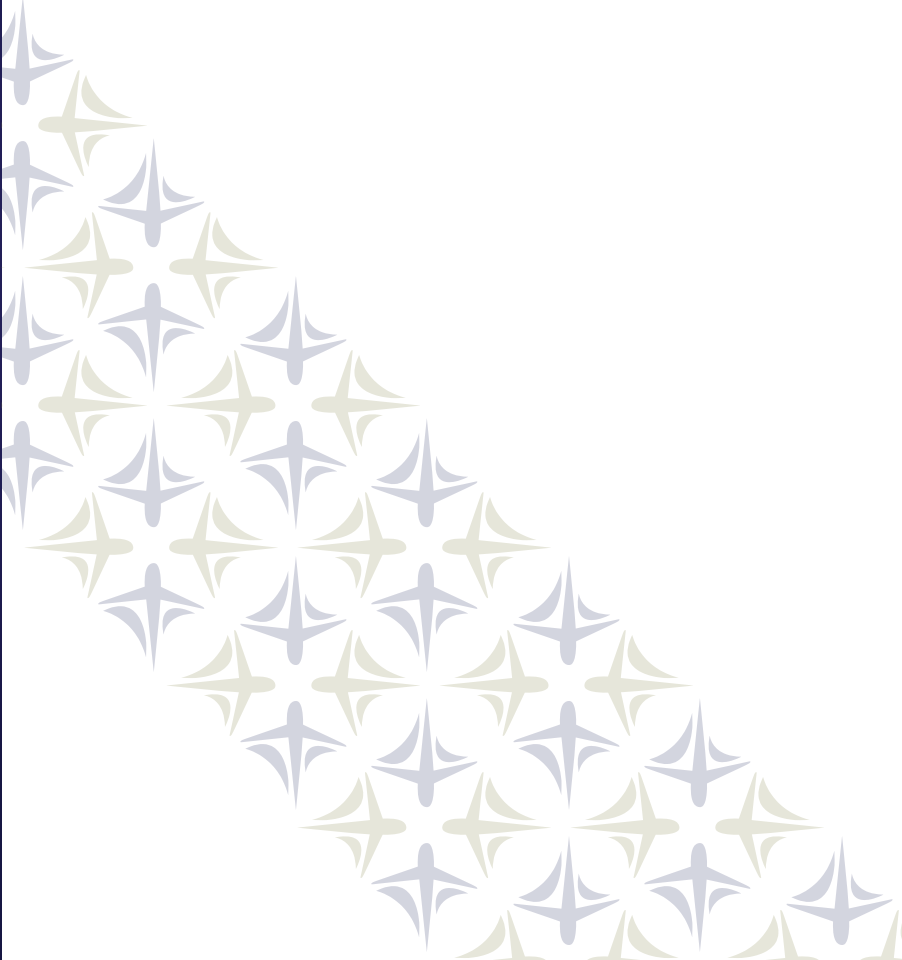


Regulation Governing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)



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**Civil Aviation Authority
Decision No. 1412/2023**

Issuing the Regulation Governing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

Pursuant to the Civil Aviation Law issued by Royal Decree No. 76/2019;
The Executive Regulation of the Civil Aviation Law issued by Decision No. 116/2023;
Regulation Governing the Conduct of Aviation Activities and Aerial Work Using Unmanned Aircraft, issued by Decision No. 417/2020;
Based on the approval of the Board of Directors of the Civil Aviation Authority;
Based on the approval of the Ministry of Finance, and
As may be required by public interest.

It is hereby decided

Article (1)

The provisions of the attached Executive Regulation shall apply to Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones).

Article (2)

Approval issued for the conduct of flying activities and aerial work using unmanned aircraft (drones) prior to the enforcement of the attached Regulation shall remain valid until expiry. Renewals shall be subject to the provisions of this Regulation.

Article (3)

The aforementioned Regulation Governing the Practice of flying Activities and Aerial Work Using Unmanned Aircraft is hereby repealed. Moreover, everything that contravenes or is in conflict with the aforementioned regulations is also hereby revoked.

Article (4)

This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into effect from the day following the date of its publication.

Issued on: 29 Rabi Al-Awwal 1445

Corresponding to: 15 October 2023

Eng. Said Hamood Al Maawali

Minister of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology
Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority's BOD

Chapter One

Definitions and General Provisions

Article (1)

In application of this Regulation, the following terms and expressions shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context otherwise requires:

1- Competent Authority:

The Civil Aviation Authority or its nominee (any entity authorized to exercise its powers or responsibilities).

2- Unmanned Aircraft System (Drone):

An aircraft operated remotely via wired, wireless remote electronic controllers or platforms, or an autonomous aircraft whose flight paths and functions are preprogrammed using artificial intelligence algorithms.

3- Aerial Work:

Commercial, research, or service-based operations such as photography, aerial surveying, Agricultural spraying, transport of equipment or materials, search and rescue, and other drone-based applications.

4- Flying Activity:

Recreational drone operations, such as photography, racing, exhibitions, and the like.

5- License:

Authorization issued by the Competent Authority to engage in flying activities or aerial work.

6- Licensee:

A natural or legal person to whom a license has been issued.

7- NOTAM (Notice to Airmen):

A notice disseminated to pilots via radio communication containing information concerning the establishment, condition or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure or hazard.



8 Protected places:

Areas classified under the Law on the Classification of State Records and the Governance of Protected Places issued by Royal Decree No. 2011/118, or any other places designated by the Competent Authority.

9- Civil Aviation Regulation:

The rules, circulars, instructions, directives, requirements, policies, and orders issued by the Head of the Competent Authority or his nominee.

Article (2)

Every person owning or possessing a drone shall register it with the Competent Authority using the prescribed form.

Article (3)

It is permissible to import or export drones or their components into or out of the Sultanate of Oman upon obtaining prior approval from the Competent Authority and relevant authorities. It is also permissible to import or export drones or their components into or out of the Sultanate of Oman for the purpose of practicing flying activities, aerial work, maintenance, or otherwise disposing thereof in accordance with the applicable Civil Aviation Regulation (as necessary).

Article (4)

The Competent Authority shall issue NOTAMs (notice to airmen), determine maximum permissible drone altitudes, and impose any necessary restrictions to ensure air navigation safety within Sultanate of Oman airspace, if required for the conduct of flying activities or aerial work.

Article (5)

The entity supervising protected places, airports, or seaports may independently or in coordination with the Competent Authority take action against unauthorised drone operations within their airspace.



Article (6)

No person may install platforms or devices to disrupt drone operations, jam frequencies, mislead navigation, or forcibly land drones except with the Competent Authority's approval and in coordination with concerned authorities.

Article (7)

Military and security agencies shall be exempt from the provisions of this Regulation within the scope of their duties, provided they comply with air traffic rules and air navigation safety requirements, and coordinate with the Directorate General of Air Navigation.

Chapter Two

Licensing Requirements and Procedures



Article (8)

It is impermissible to engage in flying activities or aerial work without obtaining a license in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation and the applicable Civil Aviation Regulation.

Without prejudice to airspace rules, safety and security protocols enforced by the Competent Authority and the concerned authorities, the following uses shall be exempt from licensing requirements:

1. Indoor use within enclosed buildings.
2. Toy drones weighing no more than (250) two hundred and fifty grams and with a maximum altitude of (100) one hundred meters above ground level, provided they are not equipped with data-collection sensors or imaging devices.

Article (9)

The following conditions are required to obtain a license:

1. The applicant is at least (18) eighteen years of age if a natural person, and registered in the Sultanate of Oman if a legal person.
2. Third-party liability insurance for the drone throughout the entire license period, in accordance with the Civil Aviation Regulation and applicable insurance requirements in this regard.
3. The applicant is required to pass the examination or training prescribed by the Competent Authority in accordance with the Civil Aviation Regulation.
4. The applicant is required to obtain an operational permit for the drone from the Competent Authority.

Article (10)

License applications shall be submitted to the Competent Authority using the prescribed form, accompanied by the required documents, relevant data, and technical specifications.



Article (11)

The Competent Authority shall review license applications and verify all documents, data, and technical specifications in coordination with the concerned authorities.

In the event that the applicant fails to provide all required documents, data, and technical specifications, the applicant maybe informed of such deficiencies and granted period not exceeding thirty (30) days from the date of notice to rectify the deficiencies. Failing so shall render the application void.

Article (12)

Licenses shall be issued by the Competent Authority using the prescribed form upon payment of the applicable fees.

Article (13)

The licensee may not assign the license to another party without prior written approval from the Competent Authority.

Article (14)

The competent authority may issue a temporary permit without following the licensing procedures stipulated in this Regulation for the operation of unmanned aircraft (drones), in accordance with the controls set forth in the Civil Aviation Regulations, while ensuring compliance with the obligations prescribed in this Regulation.

The Competent Authority may also - temporarily - suspend flying activities or aerial work, or amend operational zones in cases of accidents, disasters, emergencies, or any other situations deemed necessary to ensure air navigation safety and secure operations, provided the relevant concerned authorities are notified accordingly.

Chapter Three

Obligations and Prohibitions





Article (15)

The licensee shall adhere to the following:

1. Conducting flying activities or aerial work within the location, time, and scope specified in the license.
2. Using drones strictly for the licensed purpose.
3. Carrying the license and presenting it to the Competent Authority or concerned authorities upon request.
4. Ensuring flying activities or aerial are conducted only by the licensee or the persons listed in the license.
5. Complying with air rules and all applicable technical safety and security requirements issued by the Competent Authority and concerned authorities.
6. Operating all drone activities within visual line of sight or using an authorized tracking and collision-avoidance system, while ensuring altitude does not exceed (400 feet / 120 meters) above ground level, unless a higher altitude is required and authorized.
7. Refraining from exposing others or their property to risk.
8. Conducting aerial imaging flying activity or aerial work under the supervision of the National Survey Authority, which retains the right to access, audit, and edit recorded data upon the completion of the imaging operations, and to retain a copy thereof.
9. Refraining from transporting materials, goods, or providing delivery services without prior authorization from the Competent Authority and concerned authorities.
10. Immediately notify the Competent Authority and concerned authorities in the event of any drone-related incident.
11. Ensuring leased or recreational drones are removed from Sultanate of Oman territory upon completion of the licensed activity.

Article (16)

The licensee shall be liable for any damage caused to others or to public or private property, including any consequential or associated costs.

Article (17)

The licensee may not:

1. Operating drones within a radius of five (5) kilometers of airports, seaports, protected places, or other locations designated by the Competent Authority, unless authorized by the Competent Authority.
2. Operating drones at night (after sunset) without prior authorization from the Competent Authority.
3. Equipping drones with weapons, hazardous materials, or any device that endangers public, individuals, and property safety.
4. Operating drones during official convoys.
5. Operating drones in a manner inconsistent with its designated operation and maintenance program.
6. Photographing private premises, flying over them, or invasion of individuals' privacy.
7. Photographing military or security operations or parades, or traffic accidents.
8. Tampering with, intercepting, or jamming communication systems.
9. Performing aerobatic flights, demonstrations, conducting races, or dropping leaflets without prior authorization from the Competent Authority.
10. Flying alongside or near manned aircrafts.
11. Engaging in any activity prohibited by the Civil Aviation Law or any other law, or that poses a risk to life, property, air navigation, or the environment.

Chapter Four

Violations and Administrative Penalties



Article (18)

The Competent Authority may, in the event of a violation of the provisions of this Regulation, revoke the license or impose an administrative fine in accordance with the Appendix attached to this Regulation. Fines shall be doubled in the event of a repeat offense.

Article (19)

The Competent Authority shall take the necessary legal measures concerning any drone found to be in violation of any provision of this Regulation.

Appendix

Violations and Administrative Fines



S	Type of Violation	Value of Fine (OMR)
1	Failure to comply with rules of Air, technical safety, and security regulations issued by the Competent Authority.	600
2	Conducting flying activity activities or aerial work using an unmanned aircraft (drone) without obtaining a license.	500
3	Conducting flying activity activities or aerial work by a person other than the licensee or persons listed in the license.	300
4	Failure to adhere to the time and location specified in the license for conducting flying activity activities or aerial work using an unmanned aircraft (drone).	300
5	Failure to comply with the licensed purpose of flying activity activities or aerial work using an unmanned aircraft (drone).	300
6	Changing the location of flying activity activities or aerial work operations without obtaining approval from the Competent Authority.	600
7	Failure to carry the license or refusal to present it to the Competent Authority or concerned authorities upon request.	200
8	Failure to coordinate with concerned authorities as required by the license.	200
9	Publishing applications or platforms to interfere with the operation of licensed unmanned aircraft (drone) without prior approval from the Competent Authority.	600



هيئة الطيران المدني
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

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