

New Drone Regulations for South Africa:



SOUTH AFRICAN
CIVIL AVIATION
AUTHORITY



transport

Department:
Transport
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From **1 July 2015** for RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) or known as “Drones” or “UAV’s” (basic overview):

- Do not fly more than 400 feet (120 meters) above the ground.
- Do not fly more than 500 meters away from the pilot (line of sight).
- Do not fly closer than 10km from an airport (any registered aerodrome, airstrip, helipad, etc.).
- Do not fly in controlled, restricted or prohibited airspace.
- Do not fly closer than 50m from people.
- Do not fly closer than 50m from buildings.
- Do not fly closer than 50m from roads.
- Do not fly any drone more than 7kg for hobby use (up to 20kg for commercial use).

DO NOT, through act or omission, endanger the safety of another aircraft or person therein or any person or property through negligent flying/operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft, or toy aircraft.

As per RPAS regulations CAR 101, to **commercially** operate RPA’s (Remotely Piloted Aircraft) or known as “Drones” or “UAV’s” in South Africa the requirements are a **valid**:

- **ASL** – Air Service Licence. (Air Services Council - Department of Transport).
- **ROC** – RPAS Operators Certificate. (Operations Manual, Security Manual and Safety Management)
- **RLA** – RPAS Letter of Approval. (Flight Manual, Technical Specs, Maintenance Program and Safety Case)
- **RPL** – Remote Pilot Licence. (Aviation Medical Certificate, English Language Proficiency Certificate, Restricted Radio Licence, RPL pilot training and sign off by a DFE Designated Flight Examiner)
- **CofR** – Certificate of Registration. (Aircraft Registration Number: ZT-XXX)

Public Liability and insurance is only valid for a licenced operator with all of above (aviation insurance).

Fines and Enforcement of Illegal Drone Operators

SACAA has indicated they will follow their standard enforcement procedures, which include fines of up to R50 000 or prison sentence. For more info see: <http://www.caa.co.za> RPAS

ASL AND ROC REQUIREMENTS

To commercially operate RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft System) in South Africa requires a valid ASL (Air Service License) ACT No. 115 of 1990 and International ACT No. 60 of 1993.

ROC (RPAS Operating Certificate) in terms of Civil Aviation Regulations CAR 101 of 2011.

Holder of above requires qualified:

1. Chief Executive Officer
2. Security Manager
3. Aircraft Manager (RMT - RPAS Maintenance Technician in class 3 and higher)
4. Air Service Safety Officer
5. Flight OPS Manager with RPL
6. Quality Assurance Manager (QA monthly audits are done & 3 in 1st year by CAA)
7. RPAS Pilots with valid RPL’s.
8. Qualified Payload Operators / Cameramen.

All staff must have valid Aviation Security Awareness Certificates and full background checks.

QMS, SMS and OPS manual inductions.

We will require written permission from every land owner over which the Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) flight is planned or we will need to ensure we are more than 50m away from buildings or structures, of which we do not have the “over-flight” permission from the owner. (Not required in full size (manned) aircraft).

ATSU (Air Traffic Service Unit) clearance is required for operations in controlled airspace or above 400ft.