



Training Bulletin



Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) – “Drones”

2016-01

January 2016

Purpose

To educate Department personnel about the operation, reporting requirements and legal issues related to Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) – “drones.”

References

Cincinnati Police Department

- Procedure 12.226 – *Aircraft Crash Response and Reporting*
- Procedure 12.230 – *Fatal Or Potentially Fatal Crash Investigation and Placement of Related Charges*

Ohio Revised Code

- ORC 4561.15 – *Unsafe Operation of Aircraft*

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

- FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Public Law 112-95, §336 (a-c)
- 49 U.S.C., §40102(a)(6), §40103 and §44103(d)
- 14 C.F.R., §1.1, §91.13 and Part 73
- Interim Final Rule 80 Federal Regulation 78594, 12/16/2015

Informational Links:

- [Federal Aviation Administration](#)
- [UAS Hobby/Recreational Flying](#)
- [UAS Registration Q&A](#)
- [Know Before You Fly Campaign](#)

Information

A UAS is considered an “aircraft” as defined in the FAA’s authorizing statutes and is therefore subject to regulation by the FAA. The United States Code (U.S.C.) defines an aircraft as “any contrivance invented, used, or designed to navigate or fly in the air.” FAA’s regulations similarly define an aircraft as “a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air.”



Because an unmanned aircraft is a device that is invented, used, and designed to fly in the air, it meets the definition of “aircraft.”

Model Aircraft Operations for Hobby and Recreational Purposes

The FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 defines “Model Aircraft” as an unmanned aircraft that is:

1. Capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere;
2. Flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft; *and*
3. Flown for hobby or recreational purposes.



The FAA has the authority to pursue legal enforcement action against persons operating Model Aircraft:

1. When the operations endanger the safety of the National Air Space (NAS), even if operated in accordance with regulations.
2. If the operation is conducted in a careless or reckless manner so as to endanger the life or property of another.

Model Aircraft Guidelines:

1. Flying an UAS operated for hobby or recreational purposes does not require FAA approval, but it must be operated safely, in accordance with the law, and be flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft.
2. The UAS must be registered and marked.
3. The UAS is more than 0.55 pounds and less than 55 pounds.
4. The UAS must be operated in a manner that does not interfere with and gives way to any manned aircraft; and
5. When flown within 5 miles of an airport, the operator of the aircraft must provide the airport operator/air traffic control tower with prior notice of the operation.

UAS Operation – Not Model Aircraft / Commercial

Operations of UAS that are not Model Aircraft may only be operated with specific authorization from the FAA. Documents required are:

1. Section 333 Exemption or Aircraft Certification
2. Certificate of Authorization (COA)
3. Aircraft Registration and Markings
4. Airline transport, commercial, private, recreational, or sport pilot certificate

Certificate of Authorization (COA) exemption approvals can be viewed at:

http://www.faa.gov/uas/legislative_programs/section_333/333_authorizations/

UAS Operation – Public Agencies and Government

Operations of UAS for public agencies, organizations or government functions require the following documents:

1. Certificate of Authorization (COA)
2. Aircraft Registration and Markings

Registration Questions

Who must register a UAS?

1. The owner must be 13 years of age or older (if the owner is younger than 13, a person 13 years of age or older must register the UAS). The owner must also be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.
2. Foreign nationals/tourists wanting to operate a UAS for hobby purposes must use the online registration process and will receive a “recognition of ownership” document.
3. The registration fee is \$5.00 for online or paper-based registration.
4. If the UAS was **operated before December 21, 2015**, registration has to be completed by February 19, 2016.
5. If the UAS was **purchased after December 21, 2015**, registration has to be completed before operating the UAS outdoors.

Which unmanned aircraft needs to be registered?

Owners must register their UAS **online** at <http://www.faa.gov/uas/registration> if it meets the following guidelines:

- It weighs more than 0.55 lbs. (250 g) and less than 55 lbs. (25 kg).

Owners must register their UAS **by paper** if it meets the following guidelines:

- The aircraft is used for commercial or other than hobby/recreational purposes.
- The aircraft is greater than 55 lbs.
- The intent is to operate the aircraft outside the United States.

For more information on paper registrations go to:

http://www.faa.gov/licenses_certificates/aircraft_certification/aircraft_registry/.

For problems with registration, owners may contact:

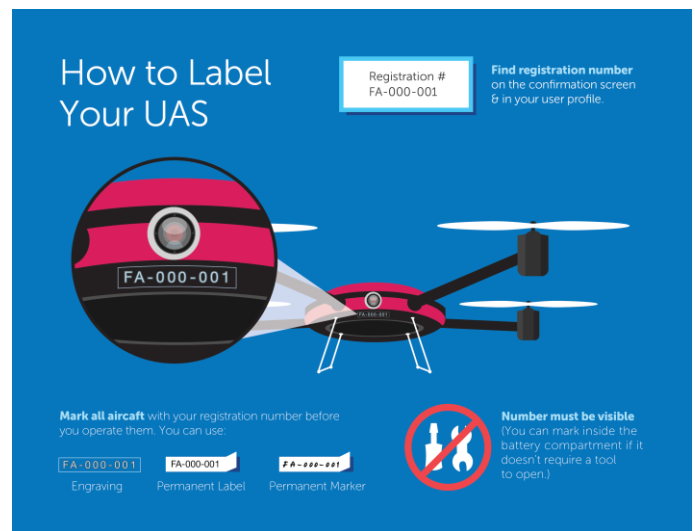


UAS Support Inquiries
(844) 244-3565
UAShelp@faa.gov

Seven days a week, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm EST

What happens once the UAS is registered?

- The FAA will issue a unique registration number that must be placed on the UAS so that it is readily visible.
- This number will be unique to the **operator** if operating strictly for hobby purposes, and unique to the **aircraft** if operating for purposes other than hobby.
- The operator of the UAS **must carry a Certificate of Aircraft Registration and make it available to law enforcement upon request**. Operators may verify registration by carrying a paper copy or by showing an electronic registration.



Law Enforcement Investigations – Calls for Service/ Complaints/ Crashes

1. Locate the operator of the UAS
2. Ask for registration and verify markings on the UAS
3. Ask the operator for the type of operation and to present appropriate documentation
4. Interview the operator and obtain pertinent information (Name – ID; address; registration number; any other documentation e.g., COA; location; date/time; witnesses; pictures etc.)
5. Refer to local laws and ordinances, if applicable (e.g., criminal damaging, assault)
6. Contact the FAA



Drone near collision with airplane



Drone crash



Law Enforcement Assistance Program

FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) Special Agents are available to provide aviation-related support to law enforcement agencies seeking criminal prosecution or conducting airborne drug interdiction. The contact number for our region's Special Agent is:

(847) 343-3860

For immediate assistance from the FAA, law enforcement officers may also call the Washington, D.C. National Operation Center at:

(202) 267-3333

Incidents/ Accidents/ Other Suspected Violations

Immediate notification of an incident, accident or other suspected violation to one of the FAA Regional Operation Centers (ROC) located around the country is valuable to the timely initiation of the FAA's investigation. These centers are manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with personnel who are trained in how to contact appropriate duty personnel during non-business hours when there has been an incident, accident or other matter that requires timely response by FAA employees.

For Ohio, contact:
Central Regional Operation Center (ROC)
(817) 222-5006 or
9-CSA-ROC@faa.gov



NO DRONE ZONE



Notice to Airmen (NOTAM)

Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) are flight advisements or restrictions that govern **all** aircraft. NOTAM's are issued on a temporary or indefinite basis. The following NOTAM is in effect for the City of Cincinnati and **restricts the use of aircrafts within 3 miles around and 3,000 feet in altitude above the sports venues listed below. Restrictions apply 1 hour prior to the scheduled time of the event until 1 hour after the end of the event.**

1. Paul Brown Stadium
2. Great American Ball Park
3. University of Cincinnati Nippert Stadium

B4UFLY Smartphone App

B4UFLY is an easy-to-use smartphone app that helps unmanned aircraft operators determine whether there are any restrictions or requirements in effect at the location where they want to fly. Information on B4UFLY is located at:

<http://www.faa.gov/uas/b4ufly/>

