

RISK MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

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Information Maryland Local Governments Need to Know

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FAA Issues New Drone Rules

The FAA issued the new Small UAS Rule (Title 14 CFR Part 107) regulating small drones that became effective on August 29, 2016. The primary change under Part 107 is the requiring of a remote pilot airman certificate rather than a full pilot's license. Below are the basic rules for public entities and special FAA guidance for local law enforcement.

Pilot Requirements

- Must be at least 16 years old.
- Must pass an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center+.
- Must be vetted by the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA).
+A person who already holds a pilot certificate issued under 14 CFR part 61 and has successfully completed a flight review within the previous 24 months can complete a part 107 online training course at www.faasafety.gov to satisfy this requirement.
- For more information, read about Remote Pilot Certification at http://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_work_business/becoming_a_pilot/

Aircraft Requirements

- Less than 55 lbs.
- Must be registered at <https://registermyuas.faa.gov/>

Operating Rules

- Class G airspace (non-controlled towered airports)
- Must keep the aircraft in sight (visual line-of-sight)
- Must fly under 400 feet
- Must fly during the day
- Must fly at or below 100 mph
- Must yield right of way to manned aircraft
- Must NOT fly over people
- Must NOT fly from a moving vehicle
- All of these rules are subject to a waiver. See http://www.faa.gov/uas/beyond_the_basics/
- **Special DC NO DRONES Zone Rules 15 & 30 mile radius**
The National Capital Region is governed by a Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA) within a 30-mile radius of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, which restricts all flights in the greater DC area. The SFRA is divided into a 15-mile radius **inner** ring and a 30-mile radius **outer** ring.
- Flying an unmanned aircraft within the 15-mile radius **inner** ring is prohibited without specific FAA authorization.

- Flying a UAS for recreational or non-recreational use between 15 and 30 miles from Washington, D.C. is allowed under these operating conditions:
 - Aircraft must weigh less than 55 lbs. (including any attachments such as a camera)
 - Aircraft must be registered and marked
 - Fly below 400 ft.
 - Fly within visual line-of-sight
 - Fly in clear weather conditions
 - Never fly near other aircraft

The airspace around Washington, D.C. is more restricted than in any other part of the country. Rules put in place after the 9/11 attacks establish "national defense airspace" over the area and limit aircraft operations to those with an FAA and Transportation Security Administration authorization. Violators face stiff fines and criminal penalties. For more up to date information on current flight restrictions, refer to http://www.faa.gov/uas/where_to_fly/b4ufly/

Law Enforcement Engagement with Suspected Unauthorized UAS Operations

There is evidence of a considerable increase in the unauthorized use of small, inexpensive Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) by individuals and organizations, including companies. While the FAA retains the responsibility for enforcing Federal Aviation Regulations, including those applicable to the use of UAS, the agency also recognizes that state and local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) are often in the best position to deter, detect, immediately investigate, and, as appropriate, pursue enforcement actions to stop unauthorized or unsafe UAS operations. The agency's [Law Enforcement Guidance for Suspected Unauthorized UAS Operations](#) (PDF) is intended to support the partnership between the FAA and LEAs in addressing these activities.

- Click link for printable [Law Enforcement Reference Card](#) (PDF)

LGIT Coverages for Drones

At no additional premium, LGIT provides a Property limit of \$2,500 and a Primary Liability limit of \$1 million including invasion of privacy subject to accepting your completed LGIT Drone Application found at this link <http://www.lgit.org/index.aspx?nid=749>.

For your convenience to help reduce claims, please refer to the FAA privacy guidelines at <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org/uas-best-practices/>

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