

Irish Aviation Authority The Times Building 11-12 D'Olier Street Dublin 2, Ireland www.iaa.ie	Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann Foirgneamh na hAmanna 11-12 Sráid D'Olier Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire Rannán na Rialachán Sábháilteachta	UAS ADVISORY MEMORANDUM (UAM) NO. UAM 021 ISSUE 2 DATE 19.01.2026	
Safety Regulation Division			

Guidance on Remote Pilot Certificate Renewals

1. Change Record

Date	Issue	Revision Description
16.01.2026	1	Initial publication.
19.01.2026	2	Change to expiry date in Section 7.1

2. References

- Regulation (EU) 2018/1139¹
- Regulation (EU) 2019/947²

¹ https://www.easa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/dfu/Easy_Access_Rules_for_the_Basic_Regulation.pdf

² <https://www.easa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/dfu/Easy%20Access%20Rules%20for%20Unmanned%20Aircraft%20Systems.pdf>

3. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the renewal of remote pilot certificates issued by the Irish Aviation Authority.

4. Definitions

For the purposes of this guidance document, the definitions in Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, Regulation (EU) 2019/945 & Regulation (EU) 2019/947 apply.

5. Regulation

Remote pilot certificates are issued with a validity period of five (5) years.

- UAS.OPEN.070 of the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/947, paragraph 1 "*The remote pilot online theoretical competency, required by points (4)(b) of point UAS.OPEN.020 and point (3) of point UAS.OPEN.040, and the certificate of remote pilot competency, required by point (2) of point UAS.OPEN.030, shall be valid for five years.*"
- UAS.STS-01.020 of the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/947, paragraph 3 "*This certificate shall be valid for five years.*"
- UAS.STS-02.020 of the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/947, paragraph 10 "*This certificate shall be valid for five years.*"

Remote pilots are required to revalidate their certificates within this validity period.

- UAS.OPEN.020(4),
- UAS.OPEN.040(3),
- UAS.OPEN.030(2),
- UAS.STS-01.020(3), and
- UAS.STS-02.020(10)

6. Issue

Remote pilots are currently unable to revalidate their remote pilot certificates, issued by the Irish Aviation Authority.

Initial applications for remote pilot certificates are not affected.

7. Exemption

While this issue is being rectified, The Irish Aviation Authority, pursuant to Article 71(1) – Flexibility Provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1139, is providing a general exemption from compliance with the requirement to revalidate.

7.1. Rationale

To allow time to for the IAA to enable remote pilots to revalidate their remote pilot certificates, and to ensure no remote pilot is affected, the IAA are exempting remote pilots from the requirement to revalidate their certificate, where issued before 16th August 2021 or until the exemption is revoked, whichever is sooner.

Therefore, if your remote pilot certificate has expired, or expires prior to 16th August 2026, or until the exemption is revoked, whichever is sooner, it may still be considered valid.

7.2. Limitations

The exemption is subject to the following limitations:

- Limited to remote pilots who hold a valid or expired remote pilot certificate issued by the Irish Aviation Authority prior to 16th August 2021.
- Remote pilot certificates subject to suspension or revocation, and remote pilots subject to a direction not to operate a UAS under Statutory Instrument 24 of 2023 are excluded from this exemption.