

# AERONAUTICAL

## NOTICE

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### IRELAND

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## **Specific Operating Permission for Small Unmanned Aircraft or Drones**

### **General**

1. The Irish Aviation Authority Small Unmanned Aircraft (Drones) and Rockets Order (S.I. No. 563 of 2015) (hereafter referred to as 'the Order'), sets out the operational limits for Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) including certain SUA more commonly referred to as 'drones'. The limits in the Order are designed to ensure that an inexperienced person operating (flying) a SUA or drone is compelled by law to do so safely, away from manned aviation, persons or property. These limits may be very restrictive for SUA or drone operators who wish to undertake aerial work for commercial, private or business purposes in controlled or restricted airspace or at distances nearer or farther than the limits in the Order. When an operator (person or organisation) wishes to operate to less restrictive limits than the Order, a **Specific Operating Permission** from the Authority is required.

This notice provides information to persons or organisations applying to the Irish Aviation Authority for a **Specific Operating Permission** to operate a SUA or drone in restricted areas or either nearer or farther than the limits in the Order.

### **Limits**

2. The Order prohibits a person who has charge of the operation of a small unmanned aircraft which has a mass of less than 25 kilograms, without fuel but including any articles or equipment installed in or attached to the aircraft and including cargo at the commencement of its flight to be flown;
  - a. within a prohibited area, a restricted area, or controlled airspace
  - b. in Air Traffic Services airspace, other than controlled airspace, within 5km of an aerodrome during periods of aircraft operations, unless the aerodrome operator has given permission;
  - c. at a distance of less than 30 metres from a person, vessel, vehicle or structure not under the direct control of the operator;
  - d. at a distance of less than 120 metres from an assembly of 12 or more persons not under the direct control of the operator;
  - e. beyond direct unaided visual line of sight and not farther than 300 metres from the point of operation;
  - f. at a height of more than 120 metres above the ground or water;
  - g. permitting or attempting to permit, any article or animal, whether or not attached to a parachute to be released from that aircraft.

Unless permitted by the Authority and subject to such conditions as are required by such permission.

**Note:** Extract is paraphrased for general information only; - Always refer directly to the legislation for accurate and up-to-date information.

## Specific Operating Permission

3. In order to be permitted to operate a SUA to less restrictive limits than the Order a person or organisation must comply with the following:
  - a) hold a valid **Specific Operating Permission** issued by the Authority; and
  - b) operate in accordance with the procedures detailed in a procedures manual accepted by the Authority; and
  - c) the person operating (flying) a SUA operating under a **Specific Operating Permission** shall have successfully undertaken a course of training accepted by the Authority, which includes the topics outlined in Appendix 1 to this notice; and
  - d) the person operating (flying) a SUA or drone under a **Specific Operating Permission** shall have successfully passed a competency assessment which at least includes the competency items in Appendix 1 to this notice (as applicable); and
  - e) the person operating (flying) a SUA or drone under a Specific Operating Permission shall hold a certificate of competency issued by the Authority.

## Application Process

4. The application for a **Specific Operating Permission** shall include a procedures manual which includes at least the items detailed in Appendix 2 to this notice. The manual must be assessed by an examiner acceptable to the Authority. The extent of a **Specific Operating Permission** shall be based on :
  - a) the procedures and risk assessments in the operations manual; and
  - b) an assessment by an examiner acceptable to the Authority of the person or organisation's ability to operate according to the procedures in the operations manual.

Persons or Organisations intending to apply for a Specific Operating Permission should review the application form FOD.F.305 at:

<https://www.iaa.ie/publications/docs/default-source/fod-f-305---application-to-operate-a-rpas>

## Training Schools & Examiners

5. A list of training schools and examiners approved to conduct the above training and assessments can be found on the IAA website at :

<https://www.iaa.ie/general-aviation/flight-training-1/rpas-training-facilities>

**NOTE:** For more details about training courses, availability, costs etc. applicants should contact their preferred training provider directly.

Chief Executive  
Irish Aviation Authority

## APPENDIX 1

### SUA SAFETY TRAINING AND COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

#### 1. Syllabus

The training course for a small unmanned aircraft pilot (SUA Pilot) shall include the following topics as applicable:

1	Air Law	6	Principles of Flight
2	Meteorology	7	Aircraft General Knowledge
3	Navigation	8	Flight Performance and Planning
4	Human Factors	9	Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
5	Aircraft Performance		

#### 2. SUA PILOT Competencies

SUA Pilots shall be required to demonstrate competence to operate an aircraft to the standards required for the specific operations permission held.

SAMPLE LIST OF SUA PILOT COMPETENCIES (as applicable)	
Site Survey	Range of Operation & FAIL SAFE
Aircraft external visual inspection.	Flight to 400ft (or as per Ops manual)
Pre-start checks	Flight to 500m (or as per Ops manual)
Pre-take off checks	Engagement of FAIL SAFE
Controlled Take Off (GPS enabled)	Description of FAIL SAFE
Climb to safe height (GPS enabled)	Regain craft control
Control check (GPS enabled)	Position to alternate LZ
Use of RPAS checklists	Hover and Land
Controlled Take Off (GPS disabled)	Crew Coordination (as applicable)
Climb to safe height (GPS disabled)	Hover over LZ
Control check (GPS disabled)	Safe descent
Sensor Placement	Controlled Landing
Track Toward object	Rotors Off
Hover left/right of object	Make Safe
Yaw to face object	Use of RPAS checklist
Hover Hold	Knowledge of Airspace classifications
Reverse track to Landing Zone	Class 'C' application procedure
Target Oblique Positional Track	Use of Aeronautical charts
Hover laterally left/right of object	Safety Management System
Movement with target	Risk Management
Return to LZ	

## APPENDIX 2

### SUA Specific Operating Permission - OPERATIONS MANUAL

Example SUA Specific Permission - OPERATIONS MANUAL (based on UK CAP 722)

<b>Minimum SUA Operations Manual Contents</b>			
<b>1.</b>	Introduction / Scope of Manual	<b>19.</b>	Site Permissions
<b>2.</b>	Amendment Record	<b>20.</b>	On site procedures
<b>3.</b>	Acronyms and Abbreviations	<b>21.</b>	Weather
<b>4.</b>	Contents	<b>22.</b>	Assembly and functional checks
<b>5.</b>	Safety Statement / Safety Policy	<b>23.</b>	Pre-flight checks
<b>6.</b>	Organisation	<b>24.</b>	Flight Procedures
<b>7.</b>	Structure of organisation and management lines	<b>25.</b>	Post flight and between flight checks
<b>8.</b>	Organogram and brief description	<b>26.</b>	Emergency Procedures
<b>9.</b>	Nominated personnel	<b>27.</b>	Accident prevention and Flight Safety programme
<b>10.</b>	Responsibility and duties of the Person in Charge of the SUA	<b>28.</b>	Flight team composition
<b>11.</b>	Areas of operation	<b>29.</b>	Operation of multiple types of SUA
<b>12.</b>	Type of operation	<b>30.</b>	Qualification requirements
<b>13.</b>	Operating limitations and conditions	<b>31.</b>	Crew health
<b>14.</b>	Methods to determine the intended tasks and feasibility	<b>32.</b>	Logs and records
<b>15.</b>	Supervision of SUA operations	<b>33.</b>	Details of the operator training programme
<b>16.</b>	Flight Planning – including operations in controlled airspace	<b>34.</b>	Accident/incident and investigation policy
<b>17.</b>	Communications including communications with Air Traffic Control	<b>35.</b>	Copy of IAA Permission and conditions
<b>18.</b>	Operating site planning and assessment including risk assessment	<b>36.</b>	Insurance requirements

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