



Proposed FAA Drone Rules Released

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The FAA released its proposed rules for small unmanned aerial systems (UAS), commonly called drones, on Sunday February 15, 2015. This simply begins the public comment period, but does not lift the current restrictions on UAS for commercial purposes in agriculture and it does not change the rules for people operating as hobbyists.

- ◆ Be vetted by the Transportation Security Administration.
- ◆ Obtain a UAS operator certificate.
- ◆ Pass the knowledge test every two years.
- ◆ Be at least 17 years old.
- ◆ Make UAS and documentation available to the FAA upon request for inspection.

Figure 1. Classes of Airspace

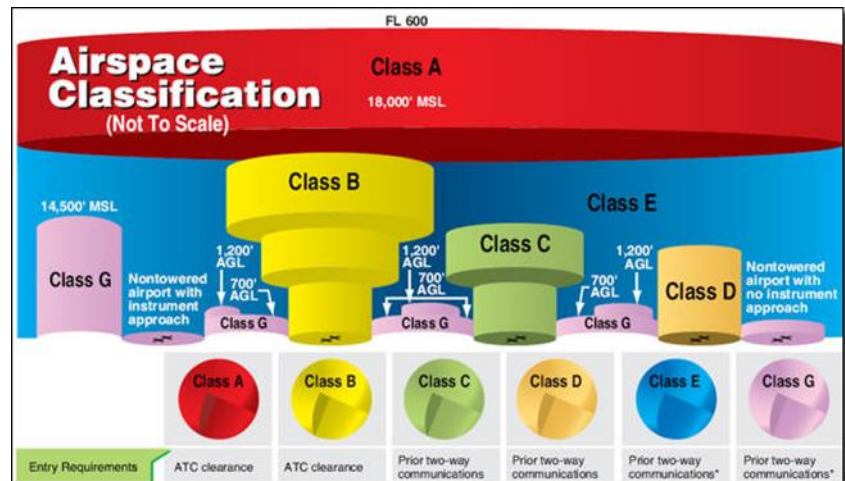
Proposed Rules

An overview of the proposed rules can be found at http://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/rulemaking/media/021515_sUAS_Summary.pdf. Some of the operational limits include:

- ◆ Must be less than 55 lbs.
- ◆ Must be in visual line of sight at all times w/o visual aids other than contacts/glasses.
- ◆ May not fly over people other than operations of UAS.
- ◆ Daytime flights only (official sunrise to official sunset local time).
- ◆ Must always yield right of way to other aircraft.
- ◆ No visual observer required.
- ◆ First person view cameras allowed, but does not meet "see and avoid" parameters.
- ◆ Can fly up to 100 mph and 500 feet above ground level.
- ◆ Need 3 miles of visibility from control station.
- ◆ Can operate in Class G airspace w/o notifying ATC, can operate in Class B, C, D, & E airspace only with ATC permission, cannot fly in Class A airspace, *Figure 1*.
- ◆ Each person can only operate or observe 1 UAS at a time.

Operators of UAS will need to meet the following requirements:

- ◆ Pass a knowledge test (likely at least minimum the private pilot airplane or rotorcraft written exam). King Schools has good online courses to prepare for the test (<http://www.kingschools.com/>).



Source: <http://www.pilotworkshop.com/tipsatc airspace entry.htm>

- ◆ Report accidents to the FAA within 10 days that result in injury or property damage.
- ◆ Conduct preflight inspections of the UAS.

The aircraft (UAS) will need to:

- ◆ Be registered with the FAA and renewed every three years. Cost of \$5.
- ◆ Aircraft markings, including the registration number are required.
- ◆ Airworthiness certification is not required.

Public Comment Period

The public comment period on these rules will be open for 60 days. For more information check out this document, https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/rulemaking/recently_published/media/2120-AJ60 NPRM 2-15-2015 joint signature.pdf.