



drone facts



UAS and Drone Rules for Commercial, Recreational and Governmental Use

One of the most-asked questions we receive about drones is concerning the licensure and registration needed for flying in the United States. Although the

flying rules are nearly the same for each group, different license procedures exist if you are flying for commercial, recreational or governmental use.

Commercial

Commercial use is defined as using an unmanned aircraft system, or drone, for any type of business purpose, such as providing images for compensation or hire or using the drone to enhance your business, like a roofing company using the drone to inspect roofs. For commercial use, you or one of your employees must hold a remote pilot certificate through the Federal Aviation Administration, and each drone must be registered through the FAA with those registration numbers displayed on the aircraft. Registration is easy and straightforward at <https://registermyuas.faa.gov>. The pilot in command (PIC) license is obtained by completing the ground school for a regular private pilot's license (given at an approved FAA testing site) and then submitting a form to the FAA for your PIC license. This license must be renewed every two years. It is used to help acquaint the pilot with different flight zones and air spaces rules in the U.S., standard operating procedures of manned aircraft, and the effect of weather and wind patterns on the drone. The process also teaches pilots how to find out about NOTAMS (notice to airmen) and TFRs (temporary flight restrictions). Many online courses are available, and licensure takes anywhere from 20 to 40 hours. The main flight rules for commercial use are:

1. Don't fly more than 400 feet high.
2. Keep the drone within your line of sight.
3. Yield to manned aircraft.
4. Don't fly within 5 miles of an airport.
5. Flying is only allowed during daylight hours.
6. Don't fly over people.
7. Special waivers are available for other uses.



A more complete set of rules can be found at:
<https://www.faa.gov/uas>.

Recreational use of a drone entails flying for sport or fun and does not require the operator to hold a remote pilot certificate; however, it does require a registration with the FAA. In this use, a single number is issued to the owner, who displays that number on the drones he or she owns or flies. Flight rules are basically the same as for commercial use.

Visit our website: www.lsuagcenter.com



Governmental

Governmental entities fall under a different category and can fly drones in one of two ways:

1. An employee can obtain a remote pilot certificate from the FAA.
2. The governmental entity can apply for a certificate of authorization (COA) that covers all employees.

By using the COA method, the organization is required to have internal certification and training. Each governmental entity may have slightly different rules and requirements. Also, a governmental COA does not allow commercial flights by those employees outside of work.

If you have any questions, you can contact Dr. Randy R. Price, 8105 Tom Bowman Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana, 71302, or one of the other authors listed below. Visit www.lsuagcenter.com to search for other drone-related publications.



Authors: Randy Price, Jimmy Flanagan, Dennis Burns, R.L. Frazier

William B. Richardson, LSU Vice President for Agriculture
Louisiana State University Agricultural Center
Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station
Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service
LSU College of Agriculture

Pub. 3628 (online only) 04/18

The LSU AgCenter and LSU provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Visit our website: www.lsuagcenter.com