



Becoming a Drone Pilot

First-Time Pilots

To become a pilot you must:

- Be at least 16 years old
- Be able to read, speak, write, and understand English
- Be in a physical and mental condition to safely operate a small UAS
- Pass the initial aeronautical knowledge exam at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center

Pilot certificate Requirements

- Must be accessible during all UAS operations
- Certificate holders must pass a recurrent knowledge test every two years

Existing Pilots

Eligibility:

- Must hold a pilot certificate issued under 14 CFR part 61
- Must have completed a flight review within the previous 24 months

Remote Pilot Certificate Requirements

- Must be easily accessible by the remote pilot during all UAS operations
- Certificate holders must pass either a recurrent on line training course OR recurrent knowledge test every two years



Where to Fly Your Drone

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has authority over the United States Airspace from the ground up. Anyone operating a drone is responsible for complying with FAA guidelines and regulations.

Drone Operators should be aware of where it is and is not safe to fly. This requires knowledge of airspace restrictions and no drone zones.

There are many types of airspace restrictions in the United States including: Restricted Airspaces, Temporary Flight Restrictions, Stadiums and Sporting Events, Wildfires, Airports and much more.



The [B4UFLY Smart-phone APP](#) is a great asset to use to determine if there are any restrictions or requirements in the area you wish to fly your drone.



DRONES UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS)



LA DOTD AVIATION
1201 Capitol Access Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
225-379-3050

<http://www.dotd.la.gov/aviation>



Drone Overview

A drone or an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) is an aircraft without a human pilot on board. The drone is controlled from an operator on the ground. Each drone operator is responsible for understanding and abiding by the rules implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The Louisiana Department of Transportation's Aviation Division's goal is to ensure that all drones and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are operated safely in Louisiana airspace.



Drone Responsibility

Pilot Responsibility:

Pilots are responsible for operating drones in a safe manner and operation in the sky as well as on the ground. Pilots should understand the rules and regulations that are implemented by the FAA and report any improper use or operation.

Airport Responsibility:

Airport Managers and personnel should be familiar with UAS operations and FAA regulations. Airports are to notify local law enforcement and the FAA if unauthorized drone or UAS operations are within close proximity to the airport.

Law Enforcement Responsibility:

Law enforcement is responsible for enforcing FAA regulations and laws as related to drone operations. If a pilot breaks or is suspected of breaking FAA regulations, law enforcement will notify the FAA Regional Operation Center and are encouraged to conduct interviews and collect evidence. Any person may contact the FAA or local law enforcement offices to report drone misuse.



Drone Usage Classification

Model Aircraft

Examples include Hobby or Recreational use, Personal Photography, Personal Property Assessments, etc.

Civil

Examples include Private Businesses, Educational Institutions, Flying for Hire, Cargo, etc.

Public

Examples include Federal, State and Local Agencies, Public Universities and Colleges, Law Enforcement, Research, etc.



Drone Registration



ALL drones weighing more than **0.55lbs** must be registered with the FAA.

You may register your drone on line on the FAA site: <https://registermyuas.faa.gov/>.

If your drone is greater than 55lbs you must register with paper that can be found at the same FAA site referenced above.



Drone Operating Rules

	Fly for Fun	Fly for Work
Pilot Requirements	None	Must have Remote Pilot Airman Certificate. Must be 16 years old. Must pass TSA vetting
Aircraft Requirements	Must be registered if over .55lbs.	Must be less than 55 lbs. Must be registered if over 0.55 lbs. (online) Must undergo pre-flight check to ensure UAS is in condition for safe operation
Location Requirements	5 miles from airports without prior notification to airport and air traffic control	Class G airspace*
Operating Rules	Must ALWAYS yield right of way to manned aircraft Must keep the aircraft in sight (visual line-of-sight) UAS must be under 55 lbs. Must follow community-based safety guidelines Must notify airport and air traffic control tower before flying within 5 miles of an airport	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*
Legal or Regulatory Basis	Public Law 112-95, Section 336 – Special Rule for Model Aircraft FAA Interpretation of the Special Rule for Model Aircraft	Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulation (14 CFR) Part 107
Example Applications	Educational or recreational flying only	Flying for commercial use (e.g. providing aerial surveying or photography services) Flying incidental to a business (e.g. doing roof inspections or real estate photography)

* these rules are subject to [Waiver](#)

