



Use of Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUAs) in the Cayman Islands

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) is the generic term used in the aviation legislation covering a variety of similar names including, but not limited to, drones, mini-copters, quad-copters, radio control model aircraft, remotely piloted aircraft and (small) unmanned aerial vehicles.
- 1.2 The current legislation relating to small unmanned aircraft is contained in Article 73 of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013 [AN(OT)O 2013] a copy of which can be found at the following link:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/2870/article/73/made>
- 1.3 For the purposes of the AN(OT)O 2013, an SUA is deemed, by definition, to be an “aircraft” and the operator of a small unmanned aircraft is similarly deemed to be its “pilot” for the purposes of accountability and responsibility, regardless of age and experience.
- 1.4 Essentially, the operation of SUAs fall into two categories either:
 - a) flying for commercial gain, known as Aerial Work or;
 - b) recreational flying.

The applicable regulations are identified, in brief, as follows:

2 Aerial Work

- 2.1 An organisation or individual offering services involving the use of a SUA (of any weight) in exchange for financial reward or commercial advantage (otherwise known as Aerial Work) must be in possession of a current Permission issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands. A Permission will ensure the competence of the operator to provide a safe service and will require him/her among other requirements to hold “adequate third-party liability insurance”.

- 2.2 An organisation or individual undertaking aerial work without a Permission required by Article 73 of the AN(OT)O 2013 may be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding CI\$ 4,000.00.

3 Obtaining a Permission to Undertake Aerial Work

- 3.1 An application for a Permission to undertake aerial work should be made on the application form which can be found at the following link: http://www.caacayman.com/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/CAAHOME/AIRCRAFTREGISTRY/A_RFORMS/221891-APPLICATION-FOR-OPERATION-OF-A-SMALL-FOR-WEB.PDF
- 3.2 The completed application form should be submitted to the CAACI together with a detailed Operations Manual compiled in accordance with the guidance material provided at the following link: http://www.caacayman.com/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/CAAHOME/AIRCRAFTREGISTRY/A_RFORMS/221891-SUSA-OPS-MANUAL-TEMPLATE-DOCUMENT.PDF

4 Other Agencies or Approvals

- 4.1 A CAACI Permission to undertake aerial work only meets the requirements of aviation legislation. It does not absolve the applicant from the responsibility of complying with the requirements of other national agencies. Other interested parties might include:
- a) The Of Reg and;
 - b) Lands & Surveys Department

5 Recreational Flying

- 5.1
- a) The SUA must be flown safely and responsibly without endangering other people or causing damage to property.
- 5.2 and **may not** be flown:
- a) Within a 3 miles restricted zone of any airport within the Cayman Islands or 1 mile restricted zone around the Northward Prison without the permission of the Director-General Civil Aviation Authority and with the consent of the appropriate air traffic control unit;
 - b) at a height of more than 400 feet above the surface.

5.3 In no circumstances may a Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircraft (SUSA) * be flown:

- a) Over or within 150 metres of any congested area
 - b) Over or within 150 metres of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1000 persons
 - c) Within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft.
 - d) Within 50 metres of any person unless:
 - i) The SUSA is taking off or landing in which case the separation distance is reduced from 50 metres to 30 Metres.
 - ii) The person is either the person in charge of the SUSA or is under the control of the person in charge of the SUSA.
- Definition: “a small unmanned surveillance aircraft means a small unmanned aircraft that is equipped to undertake any form of surveillance or data acquisition”. This includes photographic or filming for either recreational or commercial purposes.

Code of Conduct

7.1 It is incumbent upon the pilot of a SUA, to fly the aircraft in a safe and considered manner. The following code of conduct is provided as essential guidance:

‘Dos’:

Do - fly an SUA at the local model aircraft club;

Do - take lessons and learn to fly safely;

Do - be aware of the risk of low flying aircraft;

Do - remember that dangerous or improper use of an SUA will render you liable to prosecution.

‘Don'ts’:

Don't - fly in the vicinity of aircraft or airports

Don't - fly beyond line of sight of the operator

Don't - fly an SUA weighing more than 20kg (44 lbs)

Don't – undertake aerial work unless you hold a current Permission

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