

LEO Guidance for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

If you suspect a UAS operation is unsafe or unauthorized:



1. Locate the operator
2. Ask for registration and verify markings¹ on the UAS - Required for all UAS greater than 0.55 lbs
3. Ask operator for the type of operation and to present appropriate documentation (see reverse)
4. Interview operator and collect the following information:
 - Name, address, and positive ID of operator
 - Record Registration Number and the FAA Docket Number from Exemption or COA (see reverse)
 - Document time, place, and details of flight (take pictures and interview witnesses, etc)
5. Take action based on local Laws, Ordinances, Directives
6. Contact the FAA:
 - General inquiries – contact the Regional Operations Center (see below)
 - Investigation support – contact an FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) Special Agent (business hours)

Local Protocol:

FAA REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTERS:

Eastern	(404) 305-5150	DC, DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, WV, VA	7-aea-roc@faa.gov
Southern / New England	(404) 305-5156	AL, CT, FL, GA, KY, MA, ME, MS, NC, NH, PR, RI, SC, TN, VI, VT	9-aso-roc@faa.gov
Western	(425) 227-1999	AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY	9-wsa-opsctr@faa.gov
Central	(817) 222-5006	AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, NM, OH, OK, SD, TX, WI	9-csa-roc@faa.gov
Washington	(202) 267-3333	National	9-awa-ash-woc@faa.gov

**** If you need immediate assistance from the FAA call (202) 267-3333 ****

Types of Authorized UAS Ops and Required Documentation:

Required documents must be in operator's possession and presented to law enforcement upon request per 14 CFR 61.3(l)(3)

Model Aircraft

An unmanned aircraft that is 1) capable of sustained flight in the atmosphere, 2) flown within visual line of sight of the person operating the aircraft, and 3) flown for hobby or recreational purposes. Must be operated within ALL of the following parameters:

1. Strictly for hobby or recreational use
2. Must give way to manned aircraft
3. Less than 55 pounds ²
4. Operated in accordance with community based set of safety guidelines ³
5. If within 5 miles of airport, must notify airport operator and control tower (if tower)
6. Registration and Markings¹

Model aircraft operating standards are governed under P.L. 112-95 (Feb 14, 2012)

Non-Model / Commercial

Any UAS operation conducted for non-hobby or commercial purpose OR any operation that does not meet the parameters for Model Aircraft. Operator must possess ALL of the following documents:

1. Section 333 Exemption or Aircraft Certification ⁴
2. Certificate of Authorization (COA) ⁵
3. Aircraft Registration and Markings ¹
4. Pilot certificate ⁶

Public / Government

Public agencies or organizations that conduct UAS operations for a government function. Operator must possess ALL of the following documents:

1. Certificate of Authorization (COA) ⁵
2. Aircraft Registration and Markings ¹

ALL UAS:

- Must have Registration and Markings¹ (required for all UAS greater than 0.55 lbs)
- Must not endanger persons or property on the ground
- Must give way to and not interfere with manned aircraft
- Must comply with all flight restrictions and Temporary Flight restrictions⁷
- Are subject to legal enforcement for Careless or Reckless operation

¹ Aircraft Registration and Markings: All UAS greater than 0.55 lbs are required to be registered, regardless of the type of operation. The operator must provide the registration certificate upon request and the UAS must be marked with the appropriate registration or serial number. To verify registration, contact a LEAP agent during normal business hours or the Regional Ops Center after hours.

² Aircraft is limited to no more than 55 pounds unless certified through design, construction and inspection by community based organization.

³ A membership based association that represents the modeling community and provides its members a comprehensive set of safety guidelines.

⁴ 333 Exemption: FAA Letterhead dated and signed with an Exemption Number and Regulatory Docket Number. Includes conditions and limitations such as: (Not required for UAS with an FAA Airworthiness Certificate or Public/Government Operators)

- Line of Sight: The UAS must be visible at all times to the operator using his or her own natural vision.
- Daytime only: Unless specifically authorized in the COA, UAS operations must be conducted during daytime only.

⁵ Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA): FAA Form 7711-1 signed by UAS Tactical Operations Section and includes FAA Docket Number. Addresses specific restrictions such as:

- Altitude: As stipulated on cover page of COA. Generally 400' or 200' (but can be higher).
- Proximity to Airports: As stipulated on COA.

⁶ Pilot certificate: All non-model/commercial operators must have an FAA pilot certificate (Government agencies may self-certify pilots)

⁷ Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) are common for Presidential movements, select sporting events, theme parks. Active TFRs are published here: www.tfr.faa.gov

