



## Use of Small Unmanned Aircraft 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 SUA is contained in Article 73 of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013 [AN(OT)O 2013] as amended, a copy of which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/2870/article/73/made>

1.3 In addition and with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 SUA are prohibited from flying within 3 nautical miles (nm) of the perimeter of:

- a) Owen Roberts International Airport (Grand Cayman);
- b) Charles Kirkconnell International Airport (Cayman Brac) and;
- c) Edward Bodden Airfield (Little Cayman).

In addition, SUA are also prohibited from flying within 1 nm of the perimeter of H M Prison Northward.

See paragraph 8 for links to maps of the four restricted areas.

1.4 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.

1.5 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. Permission will ensure the competence of the operator to provide a safe service and will require him/her to be medically fit and 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 2500.00 pounds sterling or its equivalent in the currency of the Territory.

## **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: [Application Form](#)
- 3.2 The completed application form should be submitted to the CAACI together with a detailed Operations Manual compiled in accordance with the template provided via the following link: [Operations Manual Template](#)

## **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) Business Licence
  - b) The Information & Communications Technology Authority and;  
[ICTA](#)
  - c) Lands & Surveys Department. [Lands & Survey](#)

## **5 Recreational Flying**

- 5.1 If the SUA weighs less than 7kg (15lbs) and is being flown recreationally the Requirement is:
  - a) not to fly within the restricted zones identified in paragraph 1.3 above;
  - b) not to fly at a height of more than 400 feet above ground level.

- c) To fly safely and responsibly without endangering other people or causing damage to property.

5.2 If the SUA weighs between 7kg (15lbs) and 20kgs (44lbs) the aircraft **may not** be flown:

- a) within the restricted zones identified in paragraph 1.3 above;
- b) within 3 nautical miles of an international airport (ORIA and CKIA) without the permission of the appropriate air traffic control unit.
- c) at a height of more than 400 feet above ground level.

It is incumbent upon the pilot/operator to fly safely and responsibly without endangering other people or causing damage to property.

5.3 In no circumstances may a Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircraft (SUSA), defined as a small unmanned aircraft that is equipped to undertake any form of surveillance or data acquisition including photographic or filming for either recreational or commercial purposes, 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.

## 6 Cayman Islands Model Flying Association

The Cayman Islands Model Flying Association (CIMFA) is an organisation of recreational flyers that may be able to provide information and training to those new to the sport. The CIMFA can be contacted either by email: [cimfa345@gmail.com](mailto:cimfa345@gmail.com) or thru their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/andymac345/>

## 7 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 within 3 nm of the perimeter of:
  - Owen Roberts International Airport;
  - Charles Kirkconnell International Airport;
  - Edward Bodden Airfield (Little Cayman).
- Don't - fly within 1 nm of the perimeter of HM Prison Northward;
- Don't - fly higher than 400ft above ground level;
- Don't - fly in the vicinity of aircraft;
- Don't - fly beyond the unaided visual line of site of the operator;
- Don't - fly an SUA weighing more than 20 kgs
- Don't - undertake Aerial Work unless you hold a current Permission.

## 8 Links to the Restricted Zone Maps.

8.1 The following links may be used to access the maps for the restricted zones applicable to:

- a) [Owen Roberts International Airport \(Grand Cayman\)](#)
- b) [Charles Kirkconnell International Airport \(Cayman Brac\)](#)
- c) [Edward Bodden Airfield \(Little Cayman\)](#)
- d) [H M Prison Northward](#)

AJLR/02/11/2076