



ASSI SUA Information Leaflet

No.

1

Legal requirements for the use of Small Unmanned Aircraft

(also known as UAVs, UAS, RPAS, Drones, Quadcopters,
Model aircraft etc.)



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Legal Requirements for the use of Small Unmanned Aircraft

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The use of Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) is on the increase globally. The rules that control their use vary from country to country. This information leaflet clarifies the legal responsibilities/requirements of those wishing to operate SUA in the UK Overseas Territories.

The legislation regarding the use of SUA is laid down in Article 73 of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013, as amended by AN(OT) Amendment Order (No. 2) 2021. A consolidated version of the AN(OT)O is available on the Air Safety Support International (ASSI) website: www.airsafety.aero/consolidated_anoto

The intent of the legislation is to ensure the safe operation of SUA with mass of 25kg or less, excluding fuel. Those weighing greater than 25kg are categorised as aircraft and must comply with the appropriate regulations.

The person in charge of a SUA has a legal responsibility to ensure it is operated safely and must:

- maintain direct, unaided visual contact with the aircraft sufficient to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions, unless ASSI has granted specific written permission;
- Not recklessly or negligently cause or permit the SUA to endanger any person or property;



- Not cause or permit any article to be dropped from a SUA so as to endanger persons or property.

Without the specific written permission of ASSI, SUAs must not be flown:

- beyond visual line of sight;
- at a height of more than 400ft above the surface;
- for aerial work (commercial operations, such as photography);
- within 400ft of an open-air assembly of more than 400 persons;
- within 150 feet of any person, other than the operator or any person accompanying the operator;
- within 150 feet of any vehicle, vessel or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the SUA; or
- within the boundary of an aerodrome.

In addition to the above, a person in charge of a SUA/SUSA must:

- Only fly a SUA when reasonably satisfied

that the flight can be made safely,

- Be aware that reckless or negligent endangerment of persons or property is an offence,
- If they are the holder of a Permission to conduct Aerial Work, establish an operations manual, containing procedures/instructions on how employees involved in the operation perform their duties,
- Have appropriate insurance cover for commercial SUA operations.

It should also be noted that ASSI has the authority to restrict or prohibit the flying of any SUA.

A diagram that helps identify what rules apply to the various types of small unmanned aircraft can be found overleaf.

Further information is available at: www.airsafety.aero/sua

SUA Application Form available at: www.airsafety.aero/sua_application

“a small unmanned aircraft”, (SUA) means any unmanned aircraft, other than a balloon or kite, having a mass of not more than 25 kgs without its fuel but including any articles or equipment installed in or attached to the aircraft at the commencement of its flight

This diagram helps identify what rules apply to the various types of small unmanned aircraft

