

Legally Flying an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in the United States

1. What drone(s) will you be operating?

- **Rotorcraft** offer much versatility and can carry heavy payloads.
- **Fixed wing aircraft** can be used for surveying projects over large areas of land.

2. Which FAA pathway applies to you?

Section 333

- Available to **individuals, private organizations**, and some government entities
- Anticipated 120 day turnaround time from FAA
- Applicants can fly nationwide, 5 miles from an airport
- Person operating the drone must have FAA pilot license

Public Certificate of Authorization

- Available to **public agencies** conducting governmental functions
- Anticipated 60 day turnaround from FAA
- PIC may not need a pilot's license

3. Register your drone(s) with the FAA.

All drones operated in the United States must be registered with the FAA. Commercially operated drones must have an N-Number (tail number).

4. Once you're approved, think about applying for non-standard COAs or amendments.

- Will you be operating drones that you haven't been approved on?
- Will you need to operate higher than 200 feet above ground level, or within 5 miles of an airport?
- Will you need to operate at night?

5. Insure your drones and your operation.

- Look at commercial, UAV-specific insurance. Discuss what you are looking to do with your broker.
- Consider looking into both **liability** and **hull** insurance.
- You could lose your commercial insurance by failing to follow the terms of your 333 approval!

6. Get it in writing!

Contracts protect you, your clients, and your employees. Consider having a **standard service contract** prepared in advance of being contacted for jobs. Entering into discussions with a prospective partner? Think about asking him or her to sign a **non-disclosure agreement** to protect your company information.

7. Protect your intellectual property.

- **Copyrights** protect original works of authorship, such as photographs and videos.
- **Trademarks** protect the identity of your brand.

Questions?

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