



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Ministry of Tourism Development and Transport

Department of Civil Aviation

THE USE OF UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS, DRONES, SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT, QUADROCOPTERS, PILOTLESS AIRCRAFT etc. IN BERMUDA AIRSPACE.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What is a Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA)?

A: A SUA is just the current name for what is often called a drone, quadrocopter, pilotless aircraft or a UAS. A 'Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA)' means any unmanned aircraft, other than a balloon or a kite, having a mass of not more than 20 kg without its fuel but including any articles or equipment installed in or attached to the aircraft at the commencement of its flight.

Q: Is it legal to fly SUAs in Bermuda?

A: Providing you can maintain unaided direct visual contact so that persons, structures, vessels and vehicles can be avoided SUAs may be flown in Bermuda up to a maximum altitude of 400 feet.

Q. Can I fly my SUA in the Botanical Gardens or any other Government land area?

A. This is not permitted without express permission from the Parks Department.

Q Who is the operator?

A. That is normally the person in charge at the controls of the machine, but it could mean a consortium or company utilizing the machine with the use of more than one pilot.

Q: When does the SUA operator require the Governor's permission?

A: Permissions are required when the vehicle becomes what is called a Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircraft. This is when you attach a camera or some other data or media recording device to the machine. The SUA operator then requires the Governor's permission to operate a SUA when flying within congested areas or when flying close (within 50m) to persons, vehicles or vessels that are not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft. The requirement is detailed in Article 73 of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013 (<http://www.dca.gov.bm/Publications/Regulations.aspx>).

Q: May I sell the photos and data products that I obtain from flying my SUA?

A Yes, but the person in charge or the operator would need to obtain an Aerial Work Certificate from the Governor, and the requirement is to be found within the Air Navigation (Overseas Territory) Order 2013 at Article 73.



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Q: How do I gain the Governor's permission?

A: The Governor's permission is granted through an application to the Bermuda Department of Civil Aviation (BDCA), Flight Operations section. The most important consideration in preparing for your Aerial Works Certificate is to demonstrate to BDCA that the operations of the SUA will not be placing the public in danger nor will there be any disruption to air traffic. Contact BDCA at 293-1640 for specific requirements.

Q. Do I have to have specialist piloting skills to fly my SUA?

A. Part of the permission process is to demonstrate to a BDCA official, proficiency to complete certain flight manoeuvres in a safe manner. Operators will also be required to successfully pass a test on the Rules of the Air and basic Air Law. Additional details will be provided during the approval process.

Q: What does it cost to apply for an Aerial Works Certificate?

A: The BDCA currently requires an upfront deposit of \$3200 to cover the time spent in processing an application. These funds are used to cover the time reviewing documented normal and abnormal procedures and witnessing a flight demonstration. The more accurate and precise your submission, the more funds will be remaining to pay for the actual Certificate, which is initially \$2500 which is valid for the first year. The annual renewal fee is \$500. It is worth noting that part of the process for granting an Aerial Work Certificate is the need to take out Third Party Liability insurance to the amount of \$1.1 million.

Q. How long does it take to achieve an Aerial Works Certificate?

A. The time required to acquire a certificate is dependent on the accuracy of the submission. Adherence to the guidance provided by BDCA, the whole process may take as little as two months. Additional time will be required where the submitted documentation requires significant amendment.

Q: Do I need a different Certificate for every SUA that I own?

A: No, the Certificate is issued to the Operator, not the individual SUA.

Q: What if I do not abide by these rules?

A: In accordance with the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013, BDCA may take enforcement action which could result in a fine of up to \$4000.

Please forward any further enquiries to Peter Adhemar, Tariq Lynch-Wade, and Karolyn Darrell-Burgess.