

DRONE OPERATIONS IN MAURITIUS

As from 01 January 2025, Drone operations in Mauritius are regulated by the Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft System) Regulations 2024.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What does UAS mean?

UAS, short form for Unmanned Aircraft System, previously referred to as Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and commonly referred to as drone means unmanned aircraft and the equipment used to control it remotely.

2. What does UAS Operator mean?

It refers to any natural or legal person operating or intending to operate one or more UAS.

3. What does DRI mean?

DRI, short form for direct remote identification, is a feature that allows the UAS to transmit information such as its identity, location, aircraft altitude, and control station or take-off location that allow the Authority to identify drones remotely in the air and on the ground using remote identification software.

Please note that DRI can either be integrated into the UAS itself or installed as an independent/separate Remote ID broadcast module.

It is noted that certain UAS make, and models are manufactured with integrated RID capability; however, this capability remains inactive as the coverage for Remote ID service is not supported in Mauritius region. As such, an external RID module will have to be installed on the drone to comply with the applicable regulations and requirements.

4. What does prohibited area mean?

It refers to airspace of defined dimensions, above the land areas or territorial waters of Mauritius, within which the flight of aircraft is prohibited, that is, a demarcated airspace over Mauritius where **no aircraft or drone is allowed to fly**.

5. What does restricted area mean?

It refers to airspace of defined dimensions above the land areas or territorial waters of Mauritius, within which the flight of aircraft is restricted in accordance with conditions published by the Authority, that is, a demarcated airspace over Mauritius where **flight is only allowed under certain conditions** set by the Authority.

6. What does controlled zone mean?

It refers to airspace, which has been notified as such by the Authority and extends upwards from a notified altitude. In Mauritius, it is known as the Control Zone (CTR) surrounding the airport which extends from the ground / sea level up to 3,500 feet.

7. What does MCAR-UAS mean?

MCAR-UAS, short form for Mauritius Civil Aviation Requirements – Unmanned Aircraft System, has been issued by the Department of Civil Aviation to guide UAS owners/operators on how to comply with the technical requirements to ensure safe operation of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), specifically non-recreational operations.

The MCAR-UAS details the process of registration requirements and operational conditions for the various types of use of UAS in the Mauritian airspace. It also provides the requirements in terms of training required to obtain the Certificate of Competency for the operator/pilot.

It also describes in detail the three different categories of operations. It also elaborates on the various sub categories of operations and the operational requirements and restrictions for each type of operation. It provides guidance on the application and approval process as well as documents to be developed and submitted.

8. Does the Regulations apply for leisure/recreation/personal use?

Yes.

All drones equipped with a camera or data-capturing device, whether used for leisure, recreation, or personal purposes, must be registered with the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) as per the regulations.

9. Where can the Regulations on drone be consulted?

The Regulations and Requirements regarding the operation of drones can be consulted on our website at: <http://civil-aviation.govmu.org>, under “Drone Requirements”

You can click here to open the regulations and the Civil Aviation Requirements – [Drone Requirement \(govmu.org\)](http://civil-aviation.govmu.org)

10. What is applicable for recreational/leisure for local/Mauritius/long term residents?

As per the Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft System) Regulations 2024, for your drone equipped with a camera or a data capture device, you are required to:

- (a) Register your drone under Regulation 5 ([Registration of Unmanned Aircraft System](#))
- (b) Register yourself as the drone operator/owner under Regulation 7([Registration of Unmanned Aircraft System \(UAS\) Operator](#))

11. What is type approval by ICTA?

As per ICT Regulations 2019, all ICT equipment being imported for commercialisation and use in Mauritius require clearance from ICT Authority through the ICTA Online Portal. Thus, any UAS operator shall be required to apply for a type approval of their UAS in the event that their UAS make/model is not already a type approved equipment by ICTA.

12. What is applicable for recreational/leisure for foreigners/tourists?

The UAS (Drone) and the UAS operator/owner must be registered. In the event, the UAS (Drone) and the UAS operator/owner are already registered in their country, they are required to submit the following documents:

- (a) Proof of registration of the UAS and UAS operator from their issuing Authority.
- (b) Copy of Passport for the UAS Operator
- (c) Photograph of UAS (front view)
- (d) Photograph of UAS Serial Number
- (e) Photograph of DRI compliance / Remote ID broadcast module

In the event, the UAS (Drone) and the UAS operator/owner are not already registered in their country, they may either register their drone and themselves as an operator in their country or in a third country prior to travelling to Mauritius or apply for registration with the Department of Civil Aviation Mauritius in accordance with [Regulation 5](#) and [Regulation 7](#) of the Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft System) Regulations 2024.

13. How long does the registration process take?

The registration process in Mauritius is time consuming and involve police clearance, physical inspection DRI compliance verification which can take 3 months or more to complete the registration process.

14. What are the restrictions applicable for registered recreational drone use and users?

- (a) The UAS (Drone) operator shall fly an unmanned aircraft only within a private property with the permission of the owner.
- (b) The UAS Operator is allowed to fly an unmanned aircraft only during the day.
- (c) The UAS Operator shall fly an unmanned aircraft at a height not exceeding 400 ft.
- (d) The UAS Operator is not authorised to operate over any area where the public can gain access and this includes beaches, nature parks etc.
- (e) The UAS Operator is not authorised to operate within any restricted areas, prohibited areas or danger areas. The areas can be consulted in the [Aeronautical Information Publication \(AIP\) ENR 5.1](#) which defines and contains the locations of the Prohibited, Restricted and Danger Areas in Mauritius and you may also consult the [AD 2-FIMP 40.1](#) which details the Mauritius Control Zone whereby a person is not authorised to operate a drone for leisure purposes.
- (f) The UAS Operator will have to comply with the Data Protection Act, which provides for the protection of the privacy rights of individuals in view of the developments in the techniques used to capture, transmit, manipulate, record or store data relating to individuals.
- (g) As per Regulation 4(1) of the Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft System) Regulations 2024, the UAS needs to be equipped with a direct remote identification (DRI) add-on and need

to meet the requirements specified in the First Schedule of Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft System) Regulations 2024 to operate a drone in Mauritius.

15. What is applicable for operation for Commercial, Government or Non-recreational?

In accordance to the Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft System) Regulations 2024 for UAS (drone) operations in Mauritius, you are required to:

- (a) Register your drone(s) under Regulation 5;
- (b) Register yourself as the drone operator/owner under Regulation 7; and
- (c) Apply for an authorisation to operate the drone in accordance with the MCAR-UAS.

Please note that operating for commercial, governmental or non-recreational purposes, the following non-exhaustive documents will be required to be submitted for review and approval:

- Application Form (Category as per your operations), Operations Manual and Compliance Checklist.
- Insurance covering third party liability and including the Republic of Mauritius in its geographic coverage.
- Remote Pilot Competency Certificate issued by drone training organisations which are approved by their respective National Aviation Authority.
- Type certificate of the drone as approved by the Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Mauritius, [ICTA](#) (in case the drone is not already type approved by ICTA)

16. What are the qualifications required for UAS operator(not applicable for recreational operation)?

It has been published in the MCAR-UAS and is applicable as per category of operations.

Generally, for commercial operations, the operator is required to submit the proof of competency as detailed in the MCAR – UAS requirements (both theoretical and practical competency/qualification).

Please note that the Department recognises licences or remote pilot competency certificate issued in the open sub-category A1, A2 and A3 and STS-01 or STS-02 in the specific category.

For qualifications outside the above-mentioned categories, the pilot competency certificate(s) and a statement confirming the equivalency to the open sub-category A1, A2 and A3 and/or to the specific category STS-01 or STS-02 from the issuing Authority or training drone organisation must be submitted to the Department for our review and acceptance.

17. Does the Department of Civil Aviation accept Pilot Qualifications from any institution?

The Department of Civil Aviation recognizes all certificates issued from organizations (Qualified Entities) which are recognized by the Civil Aviation Authority of the State in which they are located.

18. Is a special permission required to operate a drone for leisure/recreational purposes?

No special permission is required to operate a drone for leisure and recreational purposes. However, a person may fly a drone for leisure purposes within a private property and at a height NOT exceeding 400 feet during the day only as long as the permission of the owner is obtained.

As per the current Regulations in force, for leisure and recreational purposes, drones **CANNOT** be flown in the vicinity of the airport and over any area where public can gain access including beaches public areas.

19. What are the applicable fees?

As from 22 July 2026, the applicant will be required to pay the applicable fees as per the Second Schedule of the Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft System) (Amendment) Regulations 2026 (Government Notice No. 12 of 2026). Same have been published as per [Communique for FEES](#).

20. What is applicable for drone used for agricultural/spraying operations?

The MCAR-UAS, Issue 01 Revision 01 dated 03 September 2026 has been promulgated and SUBPART G has been detailed for "AGRICULTURAL UAS (DRONE) OPERATIONS".