

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 is UAS?*

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 is UAS Operator?*

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

3. *What is DRI?*

DRI, short form for direct remote identification, allows a drone to transmit information such as its identity, location, altitude, and take-off position.

This helps the **Authority** (referring to the Director of Civil Aviation) to identify drones flying or operating on the ground. DRI can be **built into the drone** or **added as a separate module**.

4. *What is a prohibited area?*

It refers to a defined airspace over Mauritius where **no aircraft or drone is allowed to fly**.

5. *What is a restricted area?*

It refers to a defined airspace over Mauritius where **flight is allowed only under certain conditions** set by the Authority.

6. *What is a controlled zone?*

It refers to a defined airspace designated by the Authority. In Mauritius, the Control Zone (CTR) surrounds the airport and extends from the ground / sea level up to 3,500 feet.

7. *What does MCAR-UAS mean?*

MCAR-UAS means **Mauritius Civil Aviation Requirements – Unmanned Aircraft System**.

It provides technical and operational guidance for safe drone use, mainly for **non-recreational (commercial or professional)** operations. It includes:

- Registration and operational procedures
- Training and Certificate of Competency requirements
- Categories and sub-categories of operations
- Application and approval steps

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. What is applicable for recreational/leisure for Mauritian Nationals and long term residents?

If your drone is equipped with a camera or a data capture device, you must:

- (a) Register your drone under **Regulation 5**
- (b) Register yourself as the drone operator/owner under **Regulation 7**

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

Foreigners / tourists as drone users must also register.

If **already registered** in their home country, you must submit the following:

- Proof of registration for both drone and operator
- Copy of operator's passport
- Photo of the drone (front view)
- Photo showing the drone's serial number

If **not registered**, you must either:

- Register before traveling, or
- Apply for registration in Mauritius under **Regulations 5 and 7**

It is advisable that foreigners/tourists are registered with their National Authorities prior to coming to Mauritius.

11. How long does the registration process take?

The process in Mauritius is time consuming and involve police clearance which can take at least

3 months to complete the registration process.

12. What are the restrictions applicable for recreational drone use?

- (a) Fly **only within private property** and with the **owner's permission**.
- (b) Fly **only** during **daylight** hours.
- (c) Stay below **400 feet**.
- (d) Do **not** fly over public areas, beaches, or nature parks.
- (e) Do **not** fly inside Restricted, Prohibited, or Danger areas and controlled zone (see [Aeronautical Information Publication \(AIP\) ENR 5.1](#) and [AD 2-FIMP 40.1](#)).
- (f) Comply with the Data Protection Act when capturing or storing personal data.
- (g) Drones must have a Direct Remote Identification (**DRI**) feature or add-on that meets the First Schedule of the Regulations.

Note: Recreational flights **are not allowed** near airports or over public places (including beaches).

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

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.
- 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)

14. What is type approval by ICTA?

Under the ICT Regulations 2019, all ICT equipment imported or used in Mauritius must be cleared by the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA).

If your drone model is not already ICTA-approved, you must apply for type approval through the ICTA Online Portal.

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

It has been published in the MCAR-UAS and depends on category of operations.

16. 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.

17. What is the Data Protection Act?

The Data Protection Act 2017 serves to ensure good data protection practices. Compliance is 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.

18. Breach of Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft System) Regulations 2024?

As per Regulation 22, Any person who contravenes these regulations shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding one million rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months.