

DRONE OPERATIONS IN MAURITIUS

Drone operations in Mauritius are regulated by Regulation 91, 91A, 91B and 91C of the Civil Aviation Regulations for drones weighing 20kg or less;

Regulation 91 applies to 'Remotely Piloted Aircraft'.

Regulation 91A specially applies to 'Remotely piloted surveillance aircraft'.

Regulation 91B applies to Remotely piloted aircraft or remotely piloted surveillance aircraft used for aerial work. The Department of Civil Aviation issues two types of permissions for Aerial Work which are as follows:

1. Aerial Work Permission which is valid for a period of 3 years.

- This permission comes with restrictions. The operator is NOT allowed to fly:
 - a) within [Class A airspace, Class C airspace and Class G airspace](#);
 - b) within an aerodrome traffic zone;
 - c) at a height exceeding 400 feet;
 - d) over the property of any person unless permission from the owner is obtained;
 - e) over a congested area or within 150 metres of that area;
 - f) over a [restricted or danger area](#);
 - g) over an organised open-air assembly of more than 500 persons or within 150 metres of that assembly;
 - h) within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge;

The following documents are required to become a DCA approved operator.

- a) Filled in [DCA - RPA - Application Form Version 01 – 2016](#), available on the [DCA website](#).
- b) An Operational Manual. The manual should be in accordance to the [template](#) published on our [DCA website](#) and should make reference to the Mauritius drone regulations and requirements.
- c) A valid pilot licence or certificate recognised by the Authority according to [DCA Notice to Operators Remotely Piloted Aircraft \(RPA\), Number 01/2016](#). Please note that we will also authenticate the certificate issued by the training organisation which normally takes some time.

- d) An insurance cover for third party liabilities, including coverage in Mauritius.
- e) The details of the drone flight operation and location where and when it will take place.

NOTE: Aerial work permissions are also issued to foreign operators. The same requirements and restrictions specified above are applicable. However, the aerial permission will be valid only for the duration of operations.

2. A Special Permission

The Special Permission is issued for DCA approved operators who need to perform aerial works outside of the restrictions enumerated in paragraph 1 above. This Special Permission will be valid for a specific case. The requirements for Special Permission can be consulted via the following [link](#).

Regulation 91C applies to Remotely piloted aircraft or remotely piloted surveillance aircraft less than 7 kg used for leisure or recreational purposes.

For recreational purposes, the person flying the drone does not need any permission from the Department of Civil Aviation. However, he/she has to strictly observe the following rules:

1. You are allowed to fly the drone only during the day.
2. You may fly your drone **only** within a private property and at a height **not** exceeding 400 feet subject to the permission of the owner being obtained.
3. You are **not** authorised to operate over any area where the public can gain access including beaches and in the vicinity of the airport.
4. You 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.

The fees applicable for drone operations are as per table below.

Permission for Aerial Work under Regulation 91B	Rs 10,000 for 3 years Rs 10,000 for renewals for successive periods of 3 years
Permission for Aerial Work under Regulation 91 B for foreign operators	Rs 6,000 per permission
Special Permission	Rs 1000 per location

Note: Failure to comply with the above provisions constitute an offence in accordance with Regulation 137 of the Civil Aviation Regulation. According to the Civil Aviation Act

A Person who commits an offence shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS DRONES

1. What are the Regulations on drone in Mauritius?

The operation of drones is regulated in Mauritius as per Regulation 91 of the [Mauritius Civil Aviation \(Amendment\) Regulations 2016](#).

2. Where can the Regulations on drone be consulted?

They can be consulted by clicking on [Regulations](#) and [Requirements](#).

3. Which Regulation applies when operating a drone for aerial work?

Regulation 91B applies to the operation of drones for aerial work. An approval from the Department of Civil Aviation is required when performing aerial work. An approval will be granted upon the submission of a formal application to the Department of Civil Aviation.

4. What does Aerial work mean?

Aerial work involves the use of drones to carry out aerial operation for commercial or professional use against remuneration. These tasks may include, but are not limited to:

- Aerial photography and videography.
- Aerial surveying and mapping.
- Aerial inspection.
- Aerial environmental monitoring.

5. What needs to be submitted to the Department of Civil Aviation prior to obtaining an approval for aerial work?

- A complete [application form](#) for operation of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) (can be downloaded from the website)
- An [operation manual](#) (a template can be downloaded from the website)
- Pilot Qualifications as per Section 7 “pilot Qualifications” of [Chapter 24 of Mauritius Civil Airworthiness Requirements](#).
- Certificate of Insurance for the Remote Piloted Aircraft to be used.
- An ICTA approval of the drone.

6. Does the insurance certificate for the drone has to be from a specific organization?

All valid insurance certificates are recognized by the Department of Civil Aviation. The insurance must cover operation of drone in Mauritius.

7. What are the qualifications required for drone pilots?

As per Section 7 “Pilot Qualifications” of Chapter 24 of the Mauritius Civil Airworthiness Requirements, the Department of Civil Aviation recognizes as acceptable a Basic National (remotely piloted aircraft) Certificate (BNUCTM) and Basic National (remotely piloted

aircraft) Certificate – Small Unmanned Aircraft (BNUC-STM), as evidence of Remote Pilot competency.

8. 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.

9. What are the required fees to be paid after obtaining the approval to operate drone for aerial work?

Fees are Rs 10,000 and the approval valid up to 3 years.

Fees are Rs 6000 for temporary permission

Fees are Rs 1000 for Special Permission

10. What are the Regulations which apply for flying drones for leisure and recreational purposes?

Regulation 91 C specifically applies for the operation of drones for leisure and recreational purposes.

11. 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.

12. Do I need a special permission to bring my drone to Mauritius for holiday?

No special permission is required to come in the country with a drone.

13. Do I need a pilot licence to operate drone for leisure/recreational purposes?

A drone pilot license is not required to operate drone for leisure/recreational purposes.

14. Can drones be operated at night for leisure/recreational purposes?

No, a drone can only be flown during the day.

15. Can drones be operated Beyond Visual Line of Sight of the Pilot (BVLOS) for leisure/recreational purposes?

No, for leisure/recreational activities, the drone must remain within the line of sight of the pilot.

16. What is needed to apply for a special permission to operate beyond the restrictions stipulated in the regulations?

Approved operators will be required to submit a formal request by letter or email. They should also include a correspondence from the company contracting the RPA operator for aerial work confirming that the RPA operator has been contracted to perform the aerial work.

A risk assessment detailing flight paths and intended mode of operation has to be submitted to the Department of Civil Aviation for review. The Department of Civil Aviation will issue the special permission on a case-to-case basis.

The Special Permission should be accordance to the guidance which can be accessed via the following [link](#).