



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

PORT MARINE CIRCULAR NO 022 OF 2021

04 Jun 2021

FLYING OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT OVER SINGAPORE PORT WATERS

1. The flying of unmanned aircraft (UA) is regulated by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS). Persons looking to conduct drone operations may refer to the following link: (<https://www.caas.gov.sg/public-passengers/unmanned-aircraft>)

2. UA is an aircraft that can be flown or used without a person on board to operate it. Some examples of UA include radio-controlled aircraft, drones, and remote-controlled kites. A UA has many applications spanning from recreational activities to sophisticated commercial use. It is important that the flying of UA does not compromise aviation and public safety.

3. Pursuant to Section 44(2)(b)(vi) of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore Act (Cap.170A), the owner, agent or master of any vessel entering the port of Singapore, must notify the Port Master of any UA flight from its/his/her vessel before the UA is flown from the vessel. The notification is to be made in this form. [[LINK](#)] [[or scan QR code below](#)] The owner, agent or master of any vessel who fails to comply with this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.



4. Prior to flying over the port waters, the following checks should be conducted:

- a) Ensure that the relevant regulatory requirements on purpose of activity, registration of the UA, location and allowable flying heights are complied with (**Annex A** refers).
- b) Ensure that relevant proof of registration and activity permits by CAAS are readily available to be shown when requested.
- c) Understand and comply with CAAS's UA Safety Guidelines as shown in **Annex B**. If a permit is required, apply for the permit prior to operating the UA and comply with the permits issued by CAAS
- d) Read and understand UA advisory circulars issued by CAAS. Details of these advisories can be found via the following link: (<https://www.caas.gov.sg/legislation-regulations/guidelines-advisory/unmanned-aircraft/>)

5. Masters and owners of vessels, including yachts, oil rigs, offshore platforms, harbour craft and pleasure craft, are also to remind all crew and passengers onboard to read and understand UA advisory circulars issued by CAAS or, if unsure, to seek clarification with CAAS/MPA before any UA operations.

6. It is an offence to operate an unregistered UA (when registration is required) or without the requisite permits and any person convicted of such an offence could be fined up to \$50,000 or imprisonment for a term up to 2 years or both.

7. Please contact Capt Chong Gi Kian (Tel: 6773-7401, email: CHONG_Gi_Kian@mpa.gov.sg) for clarification on this Port Marine Circular.

CAPT KEVIN WONG
PORT MASTER
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

ANNEX A

CAAS Regulatory Requirements

UA REGISTRATION

Any UA with a total weight of **above 250 grams** must be registered before it can be operated.

3-STEP REGISTRATION PROCESS

Online Purchase

Over-the-Counter Purchase

Affix label and take photo of UA with registration label

Complete registration online

You must be at least 16 years old at registration. For those below 16 years old, they must ensure that the UA they are flying are registered by someone eligible (e.g. parent or legal guardian) and have obtained his/her permission to use it.

There is a purchasing limit for each individual:

- Up to 5 registration labels for Singaporeans and Permanent Residents (PR)
- 1 registration label for non-Singaporeans or non-PRs.

From 2nd April 2020, any person who operates an unregistered UA with a total weight above 250 grams in Singapore is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both.

For more details on UA registration please visit <https://go.gov.sg/caas-ua-registration>

FLY IT SAFE

UA Regulatory Requirements

Before flying your unmanned aircraft (UA), it is important that you check that you meet the relevant regulatory requirements of your UA, as well as the location and height at which you intend to fly your UA.

FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

1. Register your UA if the total weight exceeds 250g.
2. If the total weight of your UA exceeds 1.5kg, but weighs less than or equal to 7kg, you will need to obtain a UA Basic Training Certificate or UA Pilot Licence.
3. If the total weight of your UA exceeds 7kg, you will require a UA Pilot Licence.
4. If the total weight of your UA does not exceed 250g, you will require a Class 2 Activity Permit if you are flying your UA outdoors:
 - i. above 200 feet above mean sea level; or
 - ii. within any restricted/danger/protected area; or
 - iii. within 5km of any airport or military airbase.

If the total weight of your UA exceeds 7kg, you will require a UA Pilot Licence, you will also need both an Operator Permit and a Class 1 Activity Permit regardless of the location and height at which you fly your UA.

FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

1. Register your UA if the total weight exceeds 250g.
2. If the total weight of your UA exceeds 1.5kg, but weighs less than or equal to 7kg, you will need to obtain a UA Basic Training Certificate or UA Pilot Licence.
3. If the total weight of your UA exceeds 7kg, you will require a UA Pilot Licence, Operator Permit and Class 1 Activity Permit regardless of the location and height at which you fly your UA.
4. If the total weight of your UA does not exceed 7kg, you will require a Class 2 Activity Permit if you are flying your UA outdoors:
 - i. above 200 feet above mean sea level; or
 - ii. within any restricted/danger/protected area; or
 - iii. within 5km of any airport or military airbase.

FOR BUSINESS/NON-RECREATION/NON-EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

1. Register your UA if the total weight exceeds 250g.
2. Regardless of the weight of your UA, the location and height at which you fly your UA, you will need a UA Pilot Licence, Operator Permit and Class 1 Activity Permit.

For more details on UA regulatory requirements, please visit <https://go.gov.sg/fliesafe>

UA PILOT LICENCE (UAPL)

You will require a UAPL from **1st February 2021** if you are flying for the following purposes:

Commercial purpose (non-recreational or non-educational) regardless of the UA weight	Recreational or educational purpose with UA weight exceeding 7kg
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5-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS

ATTEND TRAINING
Training course by a CAAS-approved UA Training and Assessment Organisation (optional)

PASS UAPL THEORY TEST
Administered by CAAS at the Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA)

PASS PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT
Conducted by an Authorized Flight Examiner from a CAAS-approved UA Training and Assessment Organisation

UAPL APPLICATION
Apply for UAPL on CAPELS. Be at least 16 years old (<https://caas.gov.sg>)

DIGITAL LICENCE
Download mobile app. Scan QR code to view and store licence in app

From **1st February 2021** any person who does not obtain a UAPL as required is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment not exceeding 2 years, or both, for the first offence.

For more details on UAPL please visit <https://go.gov.sg/caas-ua-pilot-licence>

UA BASIC TRAINING CERTIFICATE (UABTC)

You will require a UABTC from **1st February 2021** if you are flying for the following purpose:

Recreational or educational purpose with UA weight more than 1.5 kg but not exceeding 7kg

2-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS

ATTEND TRAINING
Online training conducted by a CAAS-approved UABTC organisation

OBTAIN UABTC CERTIFICATE
Successfully complete online training and quiz

From **1st February 2021** any person who does not obtain a UABTC as required is liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment not exceeding 2 years, or both, for the first offence.

For more details on UABTC please visit <https://go.gov.sg/caas-ua-basic-training>

UA ACTIVITY PERMIT (AP)

An Activity Permit is granted by CAAS to an organisation or individual for a single activity or a block of repeated activities to be carried out by a UA.



TYPES OF ACTIVITY PERMIT (AP)

CLASS 1 AP

Class 1 AP is required for UA activities that require an Operator Permit

CLASS 2 AP

Education Purpose using a UA that is 7 kg or below in total mass and Recreational Purpose using a UA that is over 25 kg in total mass for the following conditions:

- operating altitude above 200ft
- within 5 km of any civil aerodrome or military airbase; or
- within any restricted, danger or protected area

HOW TO APPLY FOR AP?



Activity Permit applications are to be submitted to CAAS on eSOMS (soms.caas.gov.sg)

Any person who fails to produce a valid Activity Permit during the verification checks by enforcement officers is liable upon conviction to a fine up to \$20,000 for a first offence.



For more details on AP please visit <https://go.gov.sg/caas-ua-activity-permits>



UA OPERATOR PERMIT (UOP)

An Operator Permit is granted by CAAS to an organisation or individual if the applicant has demonstrated safe operation of UA.



WHO REQUIRES UOP?



Commercial Purpose regardless of UA weight



Education Purpose using a UA of total mass exceeding 7kg



Recreation Purpose using a UA of total mass exceeding 25kg



Beyond visual line-of-sight (BVLOS)

The purpose of an Operator Permit is to assess organisational processes, personnel competencies and airworthiness of UA.

HOW TO APPLY FOR UOP?



Operator Permit applications are to be submitted to CAAS on eSOMS (soms.caas.gov.sg)

Any person who fails to produce a valid Operator Permit during the verification checks by enforcement officers is liable upon conviction to a fine up to \$20,000 for a first offence.



For more details on UOP please visit <https://go.gov.sg/caas-ua-operator-permits>



ANNEX B

CAAS UA Safety Guidelines

