

North Dakota State University

Unmanned Aircraft System Procedure

Procedure for sUAS Flights on NDSU Property Unrelated to NDSU Research or Education

Flight operators are responsible to follow regulations for 14 CFR Part 107 sUAS flights or Model Aircraft Rules as appropriate. If flights are to be conducted on NDSU property, a Facility/Grounds Use Agreement must be submitted to Facilities Management along with a Flight Plan Form. Approval is required prior to conducting flights. The forms must be submitted a minimum of five business days prior to the proposed flight.

Since NDSU main campus property falls within Class D airspace for Hector International Airport, operators must have approval from the FAA to operate within the airspace.

For NDSU faculty, staff, and students, any flight operations falling outside the scope of one's university employment would not be covered under the ND Risk Management Fund. Insurance coverage must be obtained through other means.

If there is any type of incident involving property damage, injury to the flight operator or other people, contact the NDSU Safety Office at 701-231-7759. An incident report will need to be completed by an NDSU employee.

Reference Information for Flights Under Model Aircraft Rules

Information about flying for hobby or recreational purposes can be found on the FAA web page: https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_fun/.

Public Law 112-95, Section 336 – Special Rule for Model Aircraft establishes the requirements to be followed. The general requirements are as follows:

- Unmanned aircraft must weigh less than 55 lbs. (25 kg)
- The aircraft must be operated within visual line-of-sight (VLOS) only.
- Pilots must always yield the right of way to manned aircraft.
- Pilots must notify the airport and air traffic control tower before flying within 5 miles of an airport.
- Pilots must follow community-based safety guidelines.
 - Fly at or below 400 feet
 - Keep your UAS within sight
 - Never fly near other aircraft, especially near airports
 - Never fly over groups of people
 - Never fly over stadiums or sports events
 - Never fly near emergency response efforts such as fires
 - Never fly under the influence
 - Be aware of airspace requirements

Insurance: A person should consider their personal liability risk. Some organizations such as the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) provide liability coverage as a benefit to their members.

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Pilot Requirements: There are no formal pilot training requirements to operate a sUAS under the Model Aircraft Rules. From a practical consideration, it is highly recommended to obtain some training under the guidance of a person that is already proficient in that aircraft type or a similar aircraft. One opportunity is through the local Valley R/C Flyers club (www.valleyrcflyers.net). They will provide free of charge flight instructors if you join the AMA.

Operational Areas: A smartphone app called B4UFLY has been developed by the FAA to help operators determine if there are any restrictions or requirements in effect at the location they wish to fly.

REVISION HISTORY

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