Quick Start Guide

to the new regulations for model flying



THE LAW HAS CHANGED

The regulations for operating unmanned aircraft (including models) have changed. The full requirements of the new regulations (as they apply to everyone

in the UK) can be found in CAP 722.

- The BMFA has obtained an 'Authorisation' from the CAA which defines different and more flexible operating requirements for members operating aircraft up to 25Kg. To benefit from the Authorisation, you must familiarise yourself with the requirements.
- For full details, please see https://rcc.bmfa.uk/ article-16.

HOW HIGH CAN I FLY?

- The height limit for all unmanned aircraft in CAP 722 is 400ft (120m) above the terrain.
- BMFA members are authorised to operate above 400ft with aircraft

(excluding multi-rotors) which weigh less than 7.5 Kg.

- BMFA members are permitted to operate sailplanes over 7.5 Kg, (but not exceeding 14kg), up to 400ft above the pilot.
- Model aircraft weighing more than 7.5 Kg must not be flown higher than 400ft without permission from the CAA.

LINE OF SIGHT

 You must operate your aircraft within visual line of sight (VLOS).

 If flying using first person view, you must have a competent observer next to you who maintains VLOS with

your aircraft. Special rules apply to FPV drone racing within a 'sterile area'.

 Free flight aircraft must not be deliberately flown beyond VLOS.

FLY SAFELY

You must not endanger the safety of any uninvolved person or any vessel, vehicle or structure not under your control when you fly your unmanned aircraft.

For aircraft under 7.5kg, do not fly within

- 30m of uninvolved people
- 30m horizontal distance from an assembly of people

The distance can be reduced to 15m for take-off and landing in some circumstances.

For aircraft over 7.5kg, do not fly within

- 30m of uninvolved people
- 50m horizontal distance from an assembly of people
 Flying within 'built up areas' is only permitted subject to the conditions outlined in our guidance.

MANNED AIRCRAFT

 You must do everything possible to avoid conflict with any manned aircraft.

It is illegal to fly any unmanned aircraft (other than a control line aircraft) within in a Flight Restriction Zone (FRZ) around an airport/airfield without permission (see our guidance for details).

- To ensure that you are not operating in an FRZ, please see https://dronesafe.uk/restrictions/.
- Endangering the safety of a manned aircraft could result in a five-year prison sentence.



REGISTERED & COMPETENT

- It is a legal requirement for most model flyers to register as an Operator with the CAA (if 18 or over) and have evidence of their competency (regardless of age).
- You can register as an Operator through the BMFA and existing BMFA Achievements are accepted as evidence of competency.
- Those without a recognised BMFA Achievement must pass the BMFA or CAA online test before they fly.
- A CAA Operator I.D. number must be displayed on (or be easily accessible within) the aircraft.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE

- You are legally responsible for ensuring that your flights are conducted safely. It is essential that you are aware of the laws which apply.
- Our Authorisation covers flying for sport, recreation, education and demonstration. It excludes any flying for commercial purposes.

250g

or less

- For further details of Operator and Remote Pilot responsibilities, please refer to our full guidance.
- Failure to operate lawfully could result in criminal prosecution.

MINIMUM AGE

The minimum age for a remote pilot operating unsupervised within our Authorisation is 10.

There is no minimum age for a remote pilot under the direct supervision of another remote pilot

(who is age 14 or over) but both must have evidence of competency.

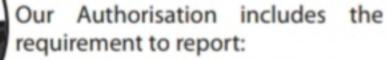
Under 18's will need someone to act as their Operator and be registered with the CAA.

AIRCRAFT LESS THAN 250G

Model aircraft below 250g

- which are operated within our Authorisation are subject to its terms and conditions.
- Alternatively, they may be operated within the requirements of the Open Category defined in CAP 722 - for aircraft less than 250g.
- For further details, see https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/cap722.

IF THINGS GO WRONG



Serious accidents and incidents to the AAIB

Serious incidents and a range of other occurrences (including breaches of the terms of our Authorisation) to the CAA.

For further details, see https://rcc.bmfa.uk/reporting.



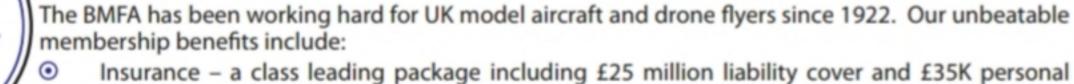
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Our Authorisation also includes special arrangements for:

- Trial flights for non-members
- Visiting flyers/competitors from overseas
- Display flying

For further details, please see the full guidance.

THE BMFA



- accident cover.
- CAA Operator Registration made easy as part of our membership process.
- The BMFA NEWS 60+ glossy pages of everything happening in our sport, delivered to your door 6 times per year.
- Achievement Scheme dedicated to raising flying standards and safety whilst making learning fun.
- Access to competition membership provides access to local, national, and international model flying contests.
- Guidance we publish an extensive range of guidance material to help members have fun, fly safely, and remain within the law.
- Assistance our experienced staff are there to help, advise and support whenever required.
- Representation we represent the model/drone flying community at the highest levels nationally and internationally. All this and much more for less than 11p a day!

www.bmfa.org

BMFA

