

Ensuring the safety of people and other aircraft is your responsibility

Flying unmanned aircraft for non-leisure use

Any flight over the French territory of a civil unmanned aircraft for a purpose other than recreational is regulated. The regulation can be found on the website:

<https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/drones-usages-professionnels>

This regulation consists of obligations related to the operator, to the remote pilot and his skills, to the aircraft and to the operational conditions and aims in particular to guarantee the safety of third parties on the ground and other aircrafts in the airspace.

Flying unmanned aircraft for recreational purposes

1 I DO NOT FLY OVER PEOPLE

I use my unmanned aircraft carefully so as not to endanger surrounding persons and vehicles. I do not fly over them and I keep a minimum safety distance. The unmanned aircraft must stay away from any gathering of people.

2 I RESPECT THE MAXIMUM FLIGHT HEIGHTS

Outside the authorized model aircraft sites, the maximum flying altitude is 120 meters (approx. 400 feet) above ground level. This altitude could be reduced in the vicinity of airports and in some military aviation training areas during their active times. Therefore I must always respect these maximum heights to limit the risk of collision between my unmanned aircraft and any other aircraft. Before flying, I must always check the maximum authorized flying height on the unmanned aircraft map at this address:

<http://www.geoportail.gouv.fr/donnees/restrictions-pour-drones-de-loisir>

In any case, I do not start a flight - or I interrupt my ongoing flight - as soon as I see an aircraft flying nearby.

3 I NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF MY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT AND I DO NOT FLY IT AT NIGHT

I keep my unmanned aircraft at a distance so that it remains easily visible to the naked eye (unaided by any device other than corrective lenses) and I keep it in my field of view at all times. Immersion Flights (FPV) and the use of unmanned aircrafts in "follow me mode" are authorized under certain conditions, requiring the presence of a second person to ensure safety. Furthermore, to ensure the safety of other aircrafts flying at low altitude (such as helicopters performing rescue operations), the regulation prohibits flying unmanned aircrafts at night outside of the Model Aircraft authorized sites for night flying, even if the unmanned aircrafts are equipped with lighting devices.

4 I DO NOT FLY MY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT OVER PUBLIC SPACES IN URBAN AREAS

In urban areas, flying an unmanned aircraft over my private properties is authorized without third parties presence as long as its maximal speed and height are adapted to the surrounding environment (buildings, trees...) so as to limit the risks in case of loss of control. I never fly my unmanned aircraft over public spaces.



5 I NEVER FLY MY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT ANYWHERE NEAR AIRPORTS

I do not fly my unmanned aircraft near any airports or aerodrome hosting airplanes, helicopters, gliders, ultralight aircraft, etc. Minimum distances must be respected and can reach 10 km for important airfields. I inquire on the map:
<http://www.geoportail.gouv.fr/donnees/restrictions-pour-drones-de-loisir>

6 I NEVER FLY OVER SENSITIVE AREAS OR PROTECTED SITES

Some sensitive or protected sites and their surroundings are banned from flying. Examples of such sites are: nuclear power plants, military zones, historical monuments, natural reserves and national parks. I always inquire about the possible presence of such restricted sites before flying my unmanned aircraft on the map:
<http://www.geoportail.gouv.fr/donnees/restrictions-pour-drones-de-loisir>

7 I ALWAYS RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE'S PRIVACY, I DO NOT BROADCAST MY AERIAL PICTURES OR VIDEOS WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE CONCERNED PERSONS AND I DON'T MAKE ANY COMMERCIAL USE OF IT

I never fly at a low altitude over private properties without the owner's consent. The people around me or around my unmanned aircraft must be informed of what I do, especially if my unmanned aircraft is equipped with a camera or any other data recording sensor. I inform people, I answer their questions, and I respect their right to privacy. I refrain from recording pictures or videos allowing recognition or identification of persons (faces, license plates...) without their permission.

Any image distribution is subject to authorization from the concerned persons or owner when flying over a private property (home, garden, etc.), and must comply with the regulation (including the Act of 6 January 1978 called « Informatique et Libertés » IT and freedom).

Any use of an unmanned aircraft intending to filming for commercial or professional purposes is subject to specific requirements and requires an authorization issued by French DGAC (direction générale de l'Aviation civile).

8 IF MY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT WEIGHTS OVER 800 GRAMS, I MUST COMPLY WITH LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

If my unmanned aircraft weights 800 grams or more, I have to:

- Register it on the AlphaTango website: <https://alphatango.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/>;
- Complete successfully an online training course <https://fox-alphatango.aviation-civile.gouv.fr/>, or a training course provided by an entity recognised by the French DGAC (Direction générale de l'Aviation civile);
- Be equipped with an electronic signal.

Unmanned aircraft weighting 25 kg or more must comply with additional requirements, including additional registration with the Direction générale de l'Aviation civile.

9 I CHECK THE TERMS OF MY INSURANCE POLICY CONCERNING FLYING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

I can be liable for damages caused to other aircraft, persons or properties. If I did not contract any specific insurance, I check the terms of my civil liability insurance policy.

10 IF IN A DOUBT, I ASK FOR MORE INFORMATION

Refer to the guide on model aircraft on the website of the Direction générale de l'Aviation civile for more information on conditions for recreational use of unmanned aircraft (in French version only).

Flying an unmanned aircraft not in compliance with the regulation enacted to ensure safety is punishable by one year imprisonment and a fine of 75,000 euros pursuant to Article L. 6232- 4 of the transport code.

To fly over a portion of the French territory in violation of a prohibition of overflight with an unmanned aircraft is liable to a fine of 15,000 to 45,000 euros, imprisonment of six months to one year and confiscation of the remotely piloted aircraft pursuant to Articles L. 6232-12 and L 6232-13 of the transport code. For more information, visit the website of the Direction générale de l'Aviation civile:

<https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/politiques/drones-aeronefs-telepilotes>

The website of the Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés is also a useful source of information.

CNIL (Commission nationale de l'informatique et des libertés) : www.cnil.fr

Regulatory references:

- Law No. 2016-1428 of 24 October 2016 on the reinforcement of the safety of the use of remotely piloted civil aircraft and its decrees and orders of application (Loi n° 2016-1428 du 24 octobre 2016 relative au renforcement de la sécurité de l'usage des aéronefs télépilotes civils et ses décrets et arrêtés d'application);
- Order of December 17, 2015 amended on the use of airspace by aircraft traveling without any person on board (Arrêté du 17 décembre 2015 modifié relatif à l'utilisation de l'espace aérien par les aéronefs qui circulent sans personne à bord);
- Order of December 17, 2015 amended on the design of civil aircraft that circulate without any person on board, the conditions of their employment and the capabilities required of the people who use them (Arrêté du 17 décembre 2015 modifié relatif à la conception des aéronefs civils qui circulent sans personne à bord, aux conditions de leur emploi et aux capacités requises des personnes qui les utilisent).