

# Requirements to fly a drone in controlled airspace

There has been enormous growth in the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) use in recent years, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has worked extensively to provide rules and procedures that incorporate UAS into the National Airspace System. As time has progressed, new tools have become available to ease the burden on UAS operators, Air Traffic Control Personnel, and Airport Operators. There are several things that you need to know prior to taking flight. All UAS operators need to visit the [FAA website for UAS information](#).

## Recreational UAS Operations (Part 101)

Flying a UAS for recreational use does not require notification to the air traffic control tower or to the Airport operator. However, Operators must follow the rules set forth in [14 CFR Part 101](#). Airspace authorization is still required prior to any UAS operation in controlled airspace. These authorizations come with altitude limitations and may be subject to other limitations. Airspace authorizations are available through the FAA's Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability ([LAANC](#)), and additional information regarding altitude restrictions for FWS Class D Airspace can be found on the FAA's [ArcGIS Map](#).

## Commercial UAS Operations (Part 107)

Commercial UAS operations more heavily regulated than recreational use. In order to operate a UAS under Part 107, the operator will be required to have a remote pilot certificate with a rating for the UAS to be operated, the UAS must be registered with the FAA, and authorization must be granted prior to operations in any controlled airspace. Authorization for Part 107 operations in a controlled airspace can be obtained via the [LAANC](#) or [DroneZone](#) systems.

To fly your UAS, Always remember:

- Register your UAS.
- Fly below 400 feet and remain clear of surrounding obstacles.
- Keep the UAS within visual line of sight at all times.
- Remain well clear of, and do not interfere with, manned aircraft operations.
- Receive an airspace authorization before flying in controlled airspace
- Don't fly near people or stadiums.

- Don't fly an aircraft that weighs more than 55 pounds.
- Don't be careless or reckless with your unmanned aircraft - you could be fined for endangering people or other aircraft.
- Don't fly while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.