
UNMANNED AIRCRAFT PERMISSIONS 2020

The Administrator of the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia makes this instrument in pursuance of powers conferred by articles 10, 73(5) and (6) and 127 of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013(a):

Citation, commencement, interpretation and application

- 1.—(1) These Permissions may be cited as the Unmanned Aircraft Permissions 2020.
- (2) These Permissions come into force on 19 September 2020.
- (3) In these Permissions—
 - “the Order” means the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013;
 - “the Ordinance” means the Air Navigation (Unmanned Aircraft) Ordinance 2020(b).
- (4) These Permissions apply to aircraft to which the Ordinance applies.

Exemptions under article 10 of the Order

- 2.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies to small unmanned aircraft that—
 - (a) are, for the time being, being flown in compliance with the Order and the Ordinance, and
 - (b) belong to the special category, within the meaning of the Ordinance.
- (2) Small unmanned aircraft to which this paragraph applies are exempt from article 73 of the Order.
- (3) Unmanned aircraft which are, for the time being, being flown in compliance with the Order and the Ordinance are exempt from articles 127 and 128 of the Order.

Permissions under article 73 of the Order

3. In relation to the flying of all small unmanned aircraft to which article 2(2) does not apply, and that comply with the Order and the Ordinance—
 - (a) permission is granted to fly the aircraft for the purposes of aerial work, and
 - (b) permission is granted to fly small unmanned surveillance aircraft, within the meaning of article 73(10) of that Order in the circumstances described in paragraph (7) of that article.

(a) S.I. 2013/2870 (United Kingdom).
(b) Ordinance 31/2020

Dated this 16th day of September 2020.

R. Thomson,
Administrator,
Sovereign Base Areas.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Permissions)

1. This explanatory note relates to the Unmanned Aircraft Permissions 2020 (the Permissions). It has been prepared by the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Adviser in order to assist the reader of the Permissions, and does not form part of the Permissions.

2. The Permissions apply to aircraft to which the Air Navigation (Unmanned Aircraft) Ordinance 2020 (the Ordinance) applies.

3. Article 73 of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013 (the Order) lays down a number of regulatory requirements for small unmanned aircraft, defined as unmanned aircraft having a mass of no more than 20kg. Under article 10 of the Order, article 2(2) of the Permissions exempt from those requirements small unmanned aircraft that belong to the Special Category, within the meaning of the Ordinance, and which are being flown in compliance with that Ordinance and the Order.

4. Article 127 of the Order prohibits all aircraft, including small unmanned aircraft, for the purposes of aerial work, except in accordance with a permission granted by the Administrator. "Aerial Work" is defined in article 126 as any purpose (other than commercial air transport) for which an aircraft is flown if valuable consideration is given or promised in respect of the flight or the purpose of the flight. Article 128 prohibits all aircraft, including small unmanned aircraft, from being used for the dropping of articles or animals for the purposes of agriculture, horticulture, forestry or conservation, except in accordance with a permission granted by the Administrator. Under article 10 of the Order, article 2(3) exempt from those requirements all aircraft to which the Ordinance applies.

5. Article 73(5) of the Order prohibit the flying of small unmanned aircraft for the purposes of aerial work, except in accordance with a permission granted by the Administrator. Article 3(a) of the Permissions grants such permission in relation to the flying of all small unmanned aircraft that comply with the Order and the Ordinance, and are not otherwise exempt under article 2(2) of the Permissions.

6. Article 73(6) of the Order prohibits the flying of small unmanned surveillance aircraft in any of the circumstances described in its paragraph (7). "Small unmanned surveillance aircraft" is defined in article 73(1) of the Order as any small unmanned aircraft that is equipped to undertake any form of surveillance or data acquisition. Article 3(b) of the Permissions grants such permission in relation to the flying of all small unmanned aircraft that complies with the Order and the Air Navigation (Unmanned Aircraft) Ordinance 2020, and are not otherwise exempt under article 2(2) of the Permissions.

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