



SWAZILAND CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Advisory Circular

CAA-AC-OPS012

November 2016

GUIDANCE FOR ISSUANCE OF A LETTER OF APPROVAL FOR USING REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (RPAS)/UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAVs)/DRONE

1.0 PURPOSE

This Advisory Circular (AC) provides guidance to an applicant on Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority (SWACAA) requirements to consider when applying for a Letter of Approval for using an RPAS/UAV/Drone.

2.0 APPLICABILITY

This Advisory Circular is applicable to RPAS/UAV/Drone operated for the purpose of:

- a) Commercial Operations
- b) Corporate Operations
- c) Non-profit Operations

The RPAS/UAV/Drone letter of approval maybe applied for all classes.

3.0 CONSIDERATIONS

There are currently no certification standards approved by SWACAA for RPAS/UAV/Drones. While there are local and International activities to develop certification standards for these RPAS/UAV/Drones, alternative means of compliance have to be considered.

In the absence of approved certification standards, an applicant must submit a Risk Assessment to SWACAA and the overall operation specifications should be submitted for each RPAS/UAV/Drone to be issued with RPAS/UAV/Drone letter of Approval before it is operated. In addition no RPAS/UAV/Drone will be approved by SWACAA to carry firearms or Dangerous Goods.

4.0 APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Documentation required

- 4.1.1 Letter of intent addressed to the Director General SWACAA
- 4.1.2 The application package shall contain the following:
 - a. RPAS/UAV/Drone name, model and serial number
 - b. RPAS/UAV/Drone photo
 - c. Description of physical characteristics (weight, command surfaces, landing gear type, aerodynamic configuration, etc), as detailed as possible
 - d. RPAS/UAV/Drone remotely piloted station name and model
 - e. Description of telemetry, launch and other associated equipment when applicable
 - f. Description of frequency spectrum used for C2 and payload datalink and the appropriate authorisation for its use
 - g. Description of communication capabilities with ATC and among RPAS/UAV/Drone flight crew
 - h. Determination if the RPAS/UAV/Drone is intended to be operated within visual line of sight or beyond
 - i. Description of procedures for loss of C2 datalink and flight termination
 - j. List of safety checks including pre-flight check
 - k. Description of any relevant or unusual aspect in the RPAS/UAV/Drone Operation, if applicable
 - l. Any other information that SWACAA may require

4.2 RPAS/UAV/Drone Company Requirements :

- 4.2.1 Aircraft Operating Certificate
- 4.2.2 Operation Specifications
- 4.2.3 Insurance must to cover the activity to conducted
- 4.2.4 Risk Assessment

4.3 RPAS/UAV/Drone Flying Crew :

- 4.3.1 Current RPAS/UAV/Drone License
- 4.3.2 Current Medical
- 4.3.3 Ratings

4.4 Approval from Police/ Military/ Local Authority in area of intended operation

5.0. RPAS/UAV/DRONE INSPECTION

SWACAA may perform an on-site inspection of the UAV to verify all information provided and to ascertain the following:

5.1 Verify the nationality and registration marks

5.2 Verify if the flight control system operates adequately

5.3 Verify if engines, propellers and associated instruments operate according to the manufacture instructions



**Solomon Dube
Director General
Swaziland Civil Aviation Authority**

