

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Can I fly my small drone in my backyard?

As long as doing so does not contravene any of the provisions in GCAD Part 28. Such as the following:

- *No RPAS Operator shall fly an RPAS within a radius of 30 meters from buildings, vehicles or people not in his or her control or without explicit permission.*
- *RPAS shall not to be operated within a 10-kilometer radius from an airport or helipad having operational control with published Instrument Flight Procedure, and a 5-kilometer radius from an airport or helipad without a published Instrument Flight Procedure, unless approved by GCAA.*

2. Can I fly my drone over the Osu Castle and other prohibited areas?

RPAS Rules do not allow you to fly in the following flying zones.

RPAS NO FLY ZONES

- *Prohibited Zones*
Prohibited Areas are areas of airspace which for one reason or another have been prohibited from having aircraft enter them. The official definition is “An airspace of defined dimensions above the land areas or territorial waters of a State within which the flight of aircraft is prohibited”.
- *Danger Zones*
Danger Areas are areas of military airspace often used for activities such as fighter pilot training, live ammunition training or weapons and systems testing (including GPS jamming exercises). The official definition is “An airspace of defined dimensions within which activities dangerous to the flight of aircraft may exist at specified time.
- *Restricted Areas*
Restricted Areas protect sensitive locations. The official definition is “An airspace of defined dimensions above the land areas or territorial waters of a State within which the flight of aircraft is restricted in accordance with certain specified conditions”
- *Military Aerodrome Traffic Zones*
Military Aerodrome Traffic Zones, similar to civil Aerodrome Traffic Zones, typically protect military aerodromes in the same way.

3. Will it be possible to have software that stops drones from entering prohibited airspace?

This is dependent on the manufacturer.

4. Restrictions of 10km from aerodromes with published flight procedure is quite excessive.

This is not excessive taking into consideration the type (s) of Instrument Procedures conducted by Manned Aircraft within the airport perimeters. The 10km serves as a protection zone for Manned Aircraft.

5. What is the radius restriction around a restricted zone?

It depends on the type of restricted zone. The prescribed conditions for such restriction can be found in Advisory Circular AC 28-009 and the Ghana Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP).

6. What do I need to get as a recreational user as opposed to a commercial user?

If flying below 400 feet AGL and within visual line of sight (VLOS), small or light RPAS without a type certificate, then all you need is to register the RPAS and obtain a letter of approval which will be renewed annually.

7. Why are there more stringent restrictions on RPAS Pilots aged 40 and above?

There are no stringent restrictions on RPAS Pilots aged 40 and above. The increased frequency for medical checks for age 40 and above is prescribed by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to check for the possibility of degenerative diseases. This is applicable to not only RPAS Pilots, but to Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers (ATC).

8. How do users for research purposes come into play?

If the RPAS is operated by an institution for non-profit purposes, then that operation will be considered as “private” but, if it is for profit making, it is considered “commercial”.

9. What frequencies will large drones operate on?

It depends on the Manufacturer. However, if it is not the standard frequencies of 2.4GHz and 5.8GHz, you will need the approval of Ghana National Communications Authority (NCA).

10. What are the specific frequencies for the C2 link?

Standard frequencies of the C2-link are 2.4GHz and 5.8GHz.

11. What process do I need to follow to use my drone for commercial purposes?

Contact the Safety Regulation Department of the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA). You may also refer to Advisory Circular AC 28-007.

12. What are the costs involved in registering, licensing and certification?

Please refer to the Scheme of Charges on the GCAA website.

13. Would using drones for community journalism be classified under commercial use or recreational use?

If the RPAS is operated by an institution for non-profit purposes, then that operation will be considered as “private” but, if it is for profit making, it is considered “commercial”.

14. Are the ROC, permits and license for use by an individual or by an entity?

As per GCAD Part 28, see the following definitions:

- *Permit: A generic term for any approval from the Authority.*
- *License: Official or legal permission to engage in a regulated activity.*
- *RPAS operator certificate (ROC): A certificate authorizing an operator to carry out specified RPAS operations.*

15. Is flying at night prohibited or does it require special authorization?

It is only allowed with special authorization from the GCAA.

16. Can the Authority grant me permission to fly within the restricted 10km radius around aerodromes?

YES, but in accordance with prescribed conditions.

17. Do I have to come to GCAA to register my drones?

You must come to the GCAA office at the Kotoka International Airport to register your drones. However, the Authority is developing a procedure to enable you to renew your registration online. Please refer to AC 28-008 on the procedure to register your drone.

18. How do I get in touch with GCAA on RPAS queries and reports?

You may send an email to rpas@caa.com.gh. You may also send WhatsApp (messages or voicemails only) to +233-(0)54 317 5578. Please indicate your name and your return contact information.