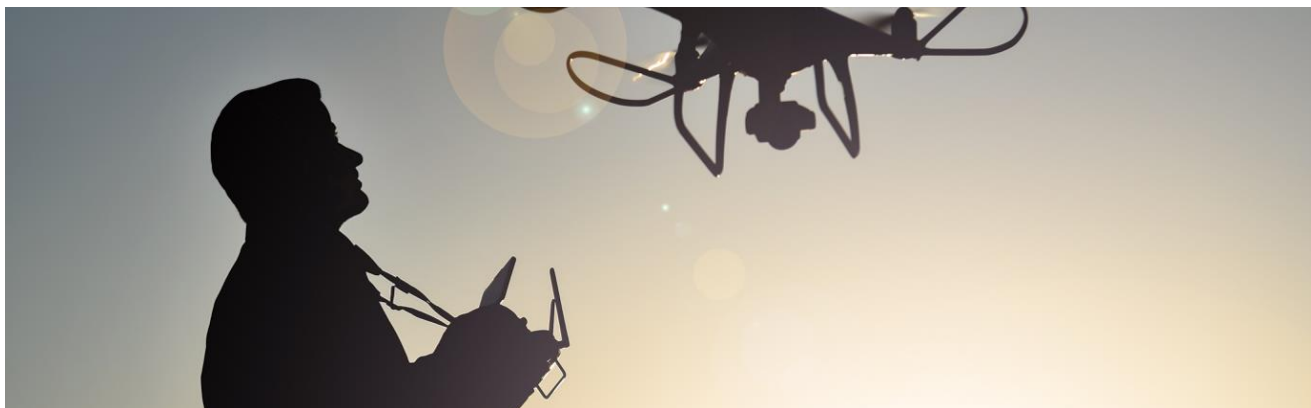


Flying Safely in 2020



The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has clear guidelines for drone safety and heavily regulates drone flying in the United States of America. Due to the increasing use of drones in US by businesses and hobbyists alike here, we offer our guide to flying safely with a little help from the FAA:

UNDERSTANDING THE RULES

All drone operators in the US are required to follow at a minimum these basic rules laid out by the FAA:

- Your drone cannot fly near emergency response efforts
- You must fly in a Class G airspace (however if you apply for and are granted a special airspace authorisation from the FAA this can be bypassed)
- Your drone must be registered with the FAA on their FAADroneZone website
- The drone must never be flown near another aircraft
- The drone must always fly at or below 400 feet
- The drone cannot fly directly above people
- The drone must always stay within the visual line-of-sight

Breaking these rules can result in heavy fines, and even jail time.

GET EDUCATED

Hobbyists or recreational flyers are not bound by the same conditions as commercial flyers as a drone flown recreationally is regulated by the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 and not the Part 107 legislation. This means that as long as recreational flyers adhere to the basic rules, they are not required to have a pilot licence. Recreational users are encouraged to check the [B4UFLY app](#) for clear airspace before flying their drone.

In order to fly a drone commercially, operators must have a Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA.

Requirements to obtain the certificate include:

- The operator must be at least 16 years old
- They must be able to read, write, speak and understand English
- Be in a physical and mental condition to safely fly a UAS
- The operator must pass an Aeronautical Knowledge Test (also referred to as a Part 107 Test)
- The above test must be passed at an FAA-approved knowledge testing centre
- Operators must undergo security screening by the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA)

All drones in the USA must be registered with the FAA. Registration costs \$5 and is valid for 3 years. Following this registration, it is advised operators mark their drones with their registration number to help track it down in the event it gets lost or stolen.

In the USA, specific drone laws can vary according to state, so it is important to check these when travelling to be aware of any additional restrictions you may encounter when flying. You can find this information on the FAA website.

GET INSURANCE

Closing the safety loop requires protecting the individual, the business, and the drone itself from damage and liability. All the training in the world does not guarantee that something won't go wrong, or that the vehicle will not malfunction. Work with your insurance advisor to make sure you are appropriately covered for your operations and how they may impact others around you from operations gone wrong.

FLYING SAFELY: AN INDUSTRY-WIDE CHALLENGE

The safe adoption of drones will continue to be an integral factor in economical and societal progression. It's up to the industry as a whole, assisted by the FAA, as well as the thousands of operators and support companies to bring about a culture of safe flying. Do your part by understanding the rules, getting educated, and protecting yourself.

For a drone insurance quote, head over to our website [here](#), and [get your free quotation](#) today.

Want more information? Visit the [FAA website](#) for specific information regarding safety rules for the different classes of drone operations.