



# NOTICE

## IMPORTANT ADVISORY TO OPERATORS OF UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

The **Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA)** wishes to advise the public and, particularly, all operators of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) of the following guidelines, which ensure the safe operation of these units.

These guidelines apply to all categories of operators, including:

1. Recreational UAV operators or Hobbyists – i.e. persons who operate model aircraft or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for recreational purposes
2. Professional (commercial & non-commercial) operators – i.e. persons or companies which operate Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for non-recreational purposes, including business-related activities such as, **but not limited to**, aerial photography, surveillance, geometric surveys, power line inspections, crop observations and research and development.

**N.B. The latter require Special Aerial Work Permits, which are granted by the JCAA, subject to the operator/s meeting specific criteria.**

### Operating Restrictions:

The following restrictions apply to the listed categories:

#### 1. Recreational (Hobbyists)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles shall not be operated:

- a. at a height exceeding **400 feet (122 metres)** above ground level
- b. beyond a maximum range of **1640 feet (500 metres)**
- c. at a distance beyond the unaided visual range of the operator(s) of the aircraft
- d. using a **First Person View (FPV)** or computer-aided visual of the UAV
- e. over or within **500 feet (152 metres)** of an organized open-air assembly of people
- f. over or within **165 feet (50 metres)** of any person. However, during take-off and landing, the aircraft may be flown within **165 feet (50 metres)**, but no less than **100 feet (30 metres)** of any person. These stipulations do not apply to the person in control of the aircraft
- g. over a private or public property or dwelling, without prior permission
- h. within **16,500 feet (5,000 metres)** of any aerodrome or rotorcraft designated landing zones, such as helipads
- i. if **not** equipped with fail-safe mechanisms that will cause the aircraft to land in the event of a loss of radio control communications and the person in charge of the aircraft has been satisfied that the mechanisms are in good working order before flight
- j. if the aircraft has **not** been verified as being able to complete its intended flight, taking into consideration the payload, wind and propulsive power availability for the duration of the flight
- k. autonomously or on pre-programmed automatic flights
- l. at night or during low visibility conditions
- m. with the intention of dropping or discharging any items to the ground
- n. within or over **restricted or prohibited** airspace.

### Further Guidelines for the Safe Operation of UAVs

1. Flights must be conducted:
  - within the operator's visual line of sight (VLOS)
  - clear of all visual obstructions, including clouds, buildings, hills, etc.
  - without a first person view device
  - safely and without recklessness
  - at safe distances away from all obstacles

#### 2. Professional (Commercial and Non-Commercial Operators)

**All professional operators must apply to the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) for a Special Aerial Work Permit before each flight.**

All entities or persons wishing to operate a UAV, as referenced in this paragraph, shall:

- apply to the **JCAA in writing** for approval, providing all details of the intended operation
- not fly the aircraft, unless written permission has been received from the Authority, stating any applicable restrictions or conditions.

**Having received approval, the professional operator must observe and comply with all the conditions included in the permit, in order to exercise the authority provided to operate a UAV.**

For further information, please contact the Flight Safety Division of the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority at **960-3948**, or visit our website at **[www.jcaa.gov.jm](http://www.jcaa.gov.jm)**.

*"The JCAA... committed to the safe and orderly advancement of aviation in Jamaica"*