

Open UAS Flight Weather Minimums and Requirements

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1 General Operations

- All flight operations must occur in the time period after official sunrise and before official sunset.
 - Operations may occur up to 30 minutes before official sunrise or 30 minutes after official sunset only if the UAS is equipped with anti-collision lights that are capable of being visible for at least 3 statute miles.

2 General Weather

- Do not fly if thunderstorms are in the immediate vicinity, even if winds are calm.
- Do not fly in rain, sleet, or snow, or any other precipitation.
- Aircraft must always remain within unaided visual line of sight of the pilot in control.

3 Visibility and Cloud Clearance

- Minimum visibility must be no less than 3 statute miles but is preferred to be greater than 6 statute miles.
- Minimum distance from clouds must be no less than 500 feet below any cloud and 2000 feet horizontally from any cloud: Cloud Ceiling should be at least 900 feet above ground level for all UAS flights.

4 Wind conditions

- For larger aircraft around three pounds or greater, the wind speed including peak gusts must not exceed 15 mph and wind gusts must not be greater than 3-4 mph over wind speed.
 - Wind speeds below 10mph and no reported wind gusts are preferred conditions.
- For small aircraft less than about three pounds the wind speed including peak gusts must not exceed 10 mph and wind gusts must not be greater than 1-2 mph over wind speed.
 - Wind speeds of 0-5mph and no reported wind gusts are preferred conditions.

5 Miscellaneous

- Wind and turbulence are generally at a minimum around sunrise and sunset.
- Wind and turbulence are generally at a maximum around 1:00-3:00 pm.

6 Note

- Initial test flights are strongly preferred to be attempted with wind and weather conditions far better than minimums/maximums.