

DGCA Regulations



Definitions

- (a) “**Authorised remote pilot training organisation**” includes any organisation authorised by the Director General for the purpose of imparting training prescribed under these rules;
- (b) “**Automatic drone operation**” means a drone operation with pre-programmed instructions wherein the drone pilot is able to intervene at any time;
- (c) “**Autonomous drone operation**” means a drone operation that does not allow intervention of a drone pilot in the management of the flight. This shall not include phases of drone operation during which the drone pilot has no ability to intervene in the management of the flight, either following the implementation of emergency procedures, or due to a loss of the command and control connection;



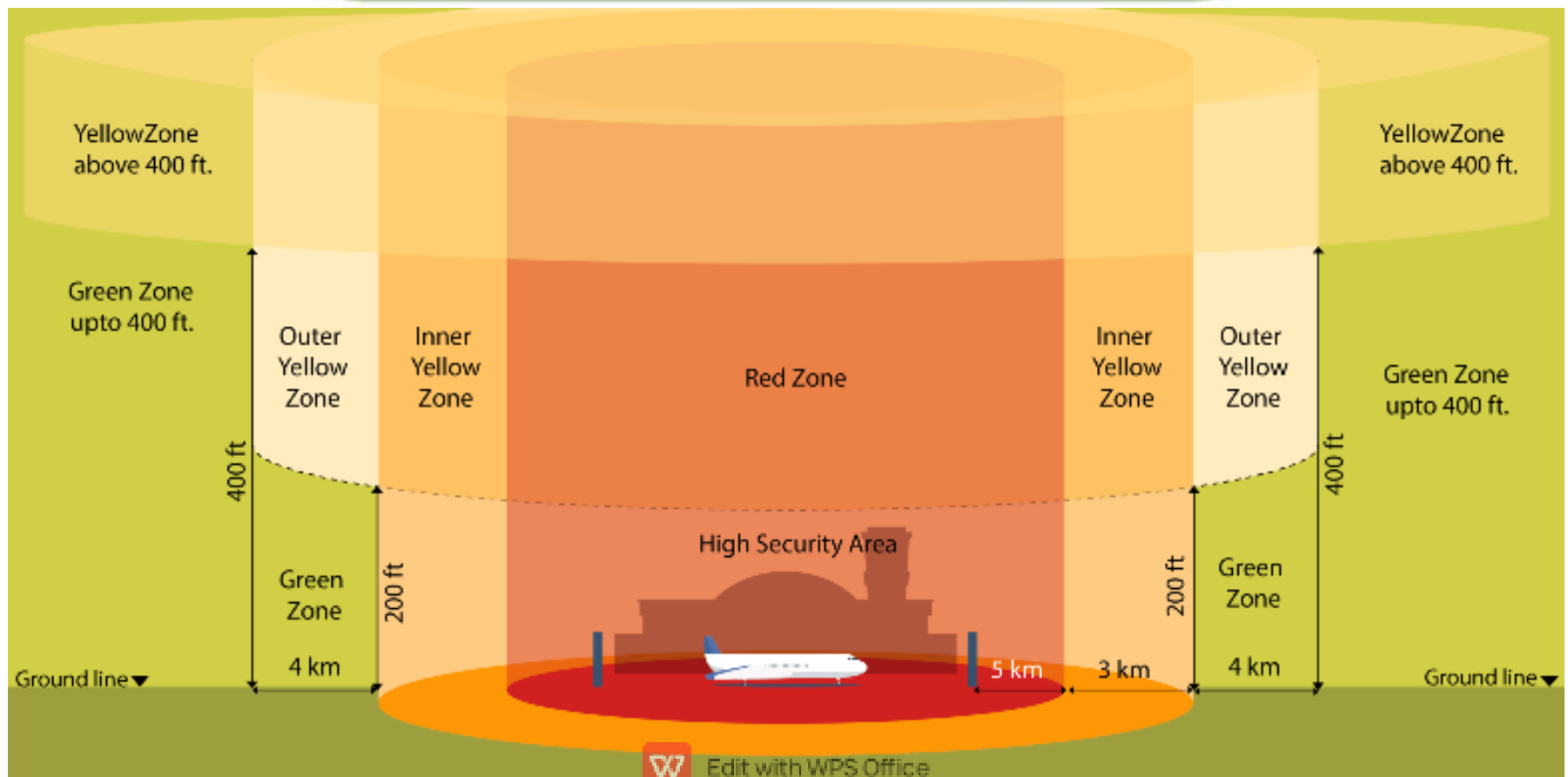
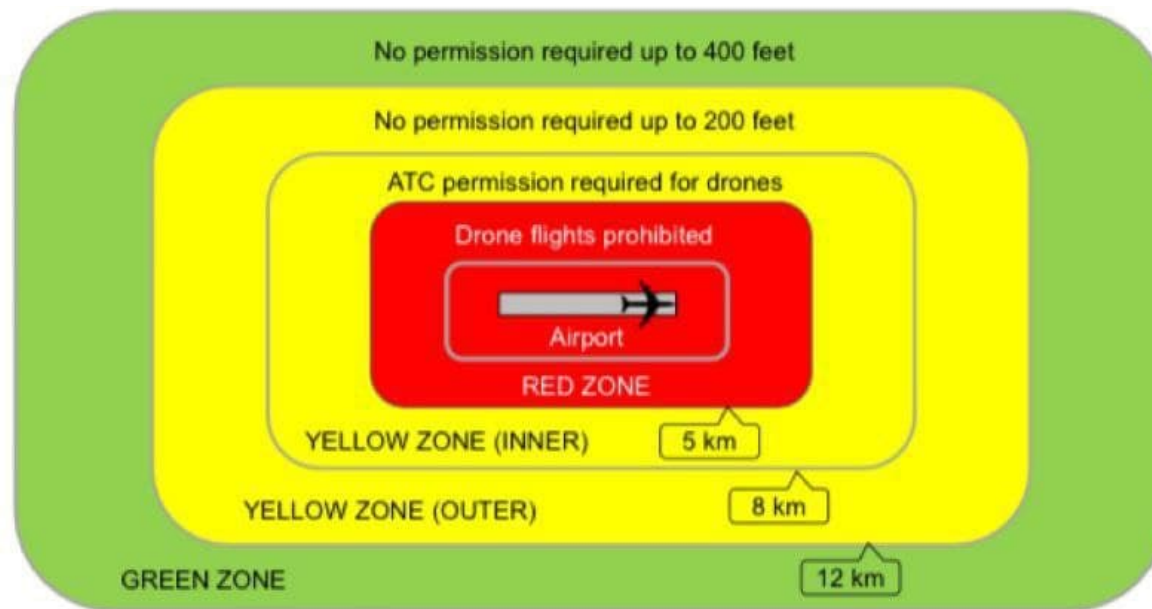
- d) “**Certificate of airworthiness**” means a certificate issued by the Quality Council of India or any other certification entity authorised by the Quality Council of India or the Central Government, certifying that the drone of a specific type meets the requirements specified under these rules;
- (e) “**Controlled airspace**” means the airspace of defined dimensions within which air traffic control service is provided in accordance with the airspace classification;
- (f) “**Digital sky platform**” means the online platform hosted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for various activities related to the management of drone activities in India;
- (g) “**Director General**” means the Director General of Civil Aviation(DGCA) appointed by the Government of India;
- (h) “**Drone**” means an aircraft that can operate autonomously or can be operated remotely without a pilot on board;
- (i) “**Drone Acknowledgement Number**” means the unique number issued by the digital sky platform under the voluntary disclosure scheme for drones in India;
- (j) “**Drone pilot**” means the natural person responsible for operating a drone who manipulates the flight controls during a drone operation; (k) “**Geo-fencing**” means restricting the movement of drone within a defined airspace;



- (i) **Person**” includes an individual or a company or a firm or an association of persons or body of individuals or a local authority or any legal entity, whether incorporated or not, Central Government or State Government or an entity thereof;
- (J) **“Prototype drone”** means a drone developed for the purpose of research and development or obtaining a certificate of airworthiness.
- (k) **“Remote pilot licence”** means the permission issued by an authorised remote pilot training organisation to any natural person for operating a particular class or classes of drones;
- (l) **“Type of Drone”** means all drones of the same basic design including all modifications there to except those modifications which result in a change in handling or flight characteristics;
- (m) **“Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management System”** means a system that provides traffic management for drone through the collaborative integration of persons, information, technology, facilities and services; supported by air, ground or space-based communications, navigation and surveillance;
- (n) **“Unique identification number”** means the unique identification number issued for registering a drone in India;

Drone zones

- “Green zone” means the airspace from the ground up to a vertical distance of 400 feet (120 metre) above ground level (AGL) that has not been designated as a red zone or yellow zone in the airspace map for drone operations; and
- The airspace from the ground up to a vertical distance of 200 feet (60 metre) AGL in the area located between a lateral distance of 8 kilometre and 12 kilometre from the perimeter of an operational airport. In the airspace above 400 feet (120 metre) AGL in a designated green zone and the airspace above 200 feet (60 metre) AGL in the area located between the lateral distance of 8 kilometre and 12 kilometre from the perimeter of an operational airport, the provisions of yellow zone shall apply;
- “**Red zone**” means the airspace of defined dimensions, above the land areas or territorial waters of India, or any installation or notified port limits specified by the Central Government beyond the territorial waters of India; within which drone operations shall be permitted only under exceptional circumstances by the Central Government.
- “**Yellow zone**” means the controlled airspace of defined dimensions above the land areas or territorial waters of India within which drone operations are restricted and shall require permission from the concerned air traffic control authority.



Classification of Drones

Classification of drones. — Drones shall be classified based upon the maximum all-up weight including payload as under —

- (a) Nano drone: Less than or equal to 250 gram;
- (b) Micro drone: Greater than 250 gram and less than or equal to 2 kilogram;
- (c) Small drone: Greater than 2 kilogram and less than or equal to 25 kilogram;
- (d) Medium drone: Greater than 25 kilogram and less than or equal to 150 kilogram; and
- (e) Large drone: Greater than 150 kilogram.



General Rules for Flying a Drone in India

Based on our research and interpretation of the laws, here are the most important rules to know for flying a drone in India.

- All drones except those in the Nano category must be registered and issued a Unique Identification Number (UIN).
- A permit is required for commercial drone operations (except for those in the Nano category flown below 50 feet and those in the Micro category flown below 200 feet).
- Drone pilots must maintain a direct visual line of sight at all times while flying.
- Drones cannot be flown more than 400 feet vertically.
- Drones cannot be flown in areas specified as “No Fly Zones”, which include areas near airports, international borders, Vijay Chowk in Delhi, State Secretariat Complex in State Capitals, strategic locations, and military installations.
- Permission to fly in controlled airspace can be obtained by filing a flight plan and obtaining a unique Air Defense Clearance (ADC)/Flight Information Center (FIC) number.

DRONE CERTIFICATION

General. — No person shall operate a drone in India unless it conforms to a certificate of airworthiness or is exempted from the requirement for a certificate of airworthiness under these rules.

Certification entities. — The Quality Council of India or a certification entity authorised by the Quality Council of India or the Central Government may issue a certificate of airworthiness for any particular type of drone, on an application filed by a manufacturer or importer of that type of drone on the digital sky platform, if such type of drone meets the specified certification standards.

Certification standards. — On the recommendation of the Quality Council of India, the Central Government may specify the standards for obtaining a certificate of airworthiness for drones. These standards may promote the use of made-in-India technologies, designs, components and drones; and India's regional navigation satellite system named Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).

Procedure for application. — Any manufacturer or importer seeking a certificate of airworthiness shall apply through Form D-1 on the digital sky platform, to Quality Council of India or any other certification entity authorised these rules, providing the following:

- (a) Name, contact details and GSTIN of the applicant;
- (b) Details and required documents in respect of the prototype drone;
- (c) Proof of payment of the prescribed fees; and
- (d) Prototype drone that shall be physically handed over to the certification entity.



DRONE REGISTRATION

Unique identification number. – (1) No person shall operate a drone which does not have a unique identification number, unless such drone is exempted under these rules.

A person may generate the unique identification number of a drone by providing requisite details in Form D-2 on the digital sky platform.

The unique identification number of a drone shall be linked to the unique serial number provided by the manufacturer and the unique serial numbers of its flight control module and ground control station.

No person shall replace the flight control module or ground control station of a drone, whose serial number is linked to such drone's unique identification number, without updating on the digital sky platform, the unique serial number of the new flight control module or ground control station, within a period of seven days from the date of such replacement.



Drone operations for research and development. – The following persons shall not require a certificate of airworthiness, unique identification number, prior permission and remote pilot licence for operating drones for research and development purposes –

- (a) Research and development entities under the administrative control of, or recognised by the Central Government, State Governments or Union Territory Administrations;
- (b) Educational institutions under the administrative control of, or recognised by the Central Government, State Governments or Union Territory Administrations;
- (c) Startups recognised by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade; and
- (d) Any drone manufacturer having a Goods and Service Tax Identification Number:

REMOTE PILOT LICENCE

Classification. –

- (a) Remote pilot licences shall specifically mention the class of the drone that the natural person has successfully completed the prescribed training for.
- (b) The remote pilot licence shall specifically mention if the said natural person has successfully completed the prescribed training for automatic or autonomous drone operations.

Eligibility. – The following natural persons shall be eligible for a remote pilot licence:

- (a) not less than eighteen years of age and not more than sixty five years of age;
- (b) have passed class tenth or its equivalent examination from a recognised Board; and
- (c) have completed the training prescribed by the Director General for the applicable class of remote pilot licence from an authorised remote pilot training organisation.