



FAA Motion Picture and Television Operations Manual

Company Name: Airborne Images

Responsible Person: Tom Stout

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Date: _____

General Information

Description of Operations: Aerial cinematography for motion picture, television, live events, and commercial productions.

Drone Platforms Used: DJI Mavic 3 Pro (Under 55 lbs, 4/3 CMOS Hasselblad camera, 43-minute flight time, omnidirectional obstacle sensing, 15km video transmission).

Insurance Coverage: [Insert provider, policy limits, certificate number].

Operational Roles: RPIC (Remote Pilot in Command), VO (Visual Observer), Production Safety Officer.

Operational Authority

This manual is governed by FAA Part 107 regulations and any applicable waivers.

Waiver Provisions (if applicable): Includes provisions for night operations, flights over people, and extended visual line of sight (EVLOS).

Local ATC coordination: Prior coordination will be made for filming within controlled airspace (Class B, C, D, or E).

Flight Operations Procedures

Pre-Flight Planning

- Location scouting and risk assessment
- Airspace classification check via FAA B4UFLY/LAANC
- Weather verification within 12 hours of operation
- NOTAM issuance if required

Takeoff

- Clear and secure launch zone (minimum 30 ft radius)
- Announce "clear for takeoff" to team
- Controlled ascent to hover and GPS/compass stabilization

In-Flight

- Maintain VLOS at all times
- Keep minimum distance of 25 ft from people unless otherwise approved
- Limit flight altitude to 400 ft AGL unless exempted
- Continuous communication between RPIC and VO

Landing

- Announce intent to land
- Controlled descent into secured zone

- Power down, secure props, log landing time

Safety Protocols

Mandatory safety briefing before each shoot

Fire extinguisher and first aid kit on-site

Flight termination switch protocol in case of emergency

Minimum safe distance to cast/crew: 25 ft

No-fly perimeter established for each set

Set Operations

Coordination with 1st Assistant Director, DP, and stunt coordinator

Spotters used during all active filming operations

Rehearsal of all drone shots with safety walkthrough

Flight path must be pre-approved by Director and Safety Officer

Maintenance and Equipment Logs

Pre-flight checklist: battery levels, props, GPS, compass calibration

Post-flight inspection: airframe, motors, camera gimbal, logs

Equipment maintenance: every 10 flight hours or after any hard landing

Batteries: rotation log, charge cycle tracking, storage procedures

Training and Currency

RPIC must maintain current Part 107 certification

Annual safety re-certification course required

VO must complete internal training on communication and hazard identification

Flight simulations every 90 days

Appendices

Appendix A: Pre-Flight Checklist

- ☒ Confirm weather conditions are within safe operating limits
- ☒ Inspect drone (DJI Mavic 3 Pro) for damage or loose components
- ☒ Check battery charge level and secure fitment
- ☒ Calibrate compass and IMU if necessary
- ☒ Verify GPS signal lock and Home Point
- ☒ Confirm memory card installed and has space
- ☒ Set camera settings per production requirements
- ☒ Conduct safety briefing with VO and production team
- ☒ Review emergency procedures and no-fly zones
- ☒ Record flight details in logbook

Appendix B: Risk Assessment Form

Location: _____

Date: _____

Flight Purpose: _____

Risk Categories:

- Weather conditions
- Airspace classification
- Ground obstacles
- People on set
- Equipment functionality
- Emergency landing options

Severity (1-5): _____ Likelihood (1-5): _____

Total Risk Score (Severity x Likelihood): _____

Mitigation Measures:

Appendix C: Daily Flight Log Template

Date: _____

Location: _____

Pilot in Command: _____

Visual Observer: _____

Aircraft ID: _____

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Flight Duration (min): _____

Mission Purpose: _____

Notes / Anomalies: _____

Appendix D: Sample Waiver Request

FAA Waiver Type: (e.g., Night Operation, Over People)

Requesting Organization: Airborne Images

Responsible Person: Tom Stout

Contact: tom@airborne-images.net | 317-987-7387

UAS Model: DJI Mavic 3 Pro

Operation Description: Provide detailed description of intended operation, including risk mitigation and safety protocols.

Location and Timeframe: Insert specific dates, times, and geographic coordinates.

Safety Plan: Describe crew roles, emergency procedures, and visual observer protocols.

Approval and Certification

This manual is submitted for FAA recognition and internal enforcement. It will be reviewed and updated annually or as regulations change.

Signature: _____

Date: _____