

Draft Drone rules, 2021

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In news- The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has released the draft Drone Rules, 2021 for public consultation. The new rules will **replace the UAS Rules 2021.**

Key highlights-

- Number of forms is reduced from 25 to 6.
- Fee is reduced to nominal levels and no linkage with the size of the drone.
- Safety features like 'No permission – no take-off' (NPNT), real-time tracking beacon, geo-fencing etc. to be notified in future.
- Digital sky platform shall be developed as a business-friendly single-window online system and most permissions will be self-generated.
- Interactive airspace maps with green, yellow, and red zones will be displayed on the digital sky platform.
- **Yellow zone is reduced from 45 km to 12 km** from the airport perimeter.
- **No flight permission required upto 400 feet in green zones** and upto 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.
- No pilot licence required for micro drones (for non-commercial use), nano drones and for R&D organisations.
- **No restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.**
- Import of drones and drone components to be regulated by DGFT.
- No security clearance required before any registration or licence issuance.
- No requirement of certificate of airworthiness, unique

identification number, prior permission and remote pilot licence for R&D entities.

- Coverage of drones under Drone Rules, 2021 **increased from 300 kg to 500 kg** and it will cover drone taxis also.
- All drone training and testing to be carried out by an authorised drone school and DGCA shall prescribe training requirements, oversee drone schools and provide pilot licences online.
- Issuance of Certificate of Airworthiness delegated to Quality Council of India and certification entities authorised by it.
- Manufacturers may generate their drone's unique identification number on the digital sky platform through the self-certification route.
- Maximum penalty has been reduced to INR 1 lakh. This shall, however, not apply to penalties in respect of violation of other laws.
- Drone corridors will be developed for cargo deliveries.
- **Drone promotion council** to be set up to facilitate a business-friendly regulatory regime.