

Unmanned Aircraft System Rules, 2020

September 19, 2020

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) are a class of aircrafts that can **fly without the onboard presence of pilots**. Unmanned aircraft systems consist of the **aircraft component, sensor payloads and a ground control station**. UAVs are used for observation and tactical planning. They are classified based on the altitude range, endurance and weight, and support a **wide range of applications including military and commercial applications**.

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- An **importer, manufacturer, trader, owner and operator** of UAS must apply for **prior authorization from DGCA** which is **valid initially for five years**. The authorisation may be renewed for a period of another five years at a time. If the authorisation request is granted, the DGCA will issue a **Unique Authorisation Number (UAN)**.
- The **substantial ownership** and effective control in case of authorisation of a company/ body corporate/ firm etc. shall **vest in Indian nationals**.
- An organisation manufacturing a UAS or its part/ component is **subject to safety and inspection oversight by the DGCA**, and must comply with DGCA's requirements.
- A UAS may be sold or leased or transferred in any other manner only to persons with a valid UAN, and with prior approval of DGCA.
- For every flight of a UA, permission must be obtained through the online platform (**'Digital Sky'**) in the manner specified by the DGCA. After each flight, the UAS operator is required to **furnish flight log details** through Digital Sky.
- A UA is permitted to **capture imagery** except in non-

permissible areas (specified in Schedule VIII) and after ensuring the privacy of an individual and their property.

- A UA shall **not carry any payload, nor drop/ project an article** when in motion, except as specified by DGCA.
- The Central government may establish a **UAS Traffic Management (UTM) system** in the Indian airspace, and grant a licence to a person for providing UTM service.
- One of the requirements for UTM personnel is to undergo training at a training institute authorised by DGCA.
- **Drone ports and drone corridors** may be established in permitted areas. A drone port shall be used for the arrival, departure, surface movement and associated maintenance or commercial activities of UA.
- A UA may be operated in India only if a valid **third-party insurance** policy covers liability in case of a mishap involving such UA and causing death or bodily injury to any person or damage to property.