



Miscellaneous

No: 1168

Air Navigation Order 2009

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General Exemption E 4185

Small Unmanned Aircraft – First Person View (FPV) Flying

(See Note 1)

- 1) The Civil Aviation Authority, in exercise of its powers under article 242 of the Air Navigation Order 2009 ('the Order'), exempts any person in charge of a Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) from the requirement at article 166(3) of the Order to ensure that direct unaided visual contact is maintained with the aircraft sufficient to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions.
- 2) This exemption only applies if the conditions at paragraphs 3 to 7 are met.
- 3)
 - a) The person in charge is the person piloting the SUA (see Note 2).
 - b) The person in charge is accompanied by a competent observer who maintains direct unaided visual contact with the SUA sufficient to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions and advises the person in charge accordingly.
 - c) The maximum take-off mass of the SUA does not exceed 3.5 kg, including any batteries or fuel.
- 4) The person in charge must not fly the SUA:
 - a) in Class A, C, D or E airspace unless permission of the appropriate air traffic control unit has been obtained;
 - b) within an aerodrome traffic zone during the notified hours of watch of the air traffic control unit (if any) at that aerodrome unless permission of any such air traffic control unit has been obtained;
 - c) at a height of more than 1,000 feet above the surface (see Note 3);
 - d) over or within 150 metres of any congested area;
 - e) over or within 150 metres of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons;
 - f) within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft;

- g) within 50 metres of any other person, apart from the competent observer, except when taking off or landing in accordance with paragraph (h);
 - h) within 30 metres of any other person, apart from the competent observer, other adjacent model operators, or any model flying club members, during take-off or landing; or
 - i) for the purposes of aerial work.
- 5) For the purposes of this exemption, a 'competent observer' means someone whom the person in charge of the SUA has designated as the competent observer.
- 6) Before designating someone as the competent observer, the person in charge of the SUA must be satisfied that he or she:
- a) has been briefed in accordance with paragraph 7;
 - b) is competent to perform the tasks which he or she may be called upon to perform in accordance with paragraph 7; and
 - c) is competent, by direct unaided visual observation of the SUA, to assist and advise the person in charge with the safe conduct of the flight.
- 7) The person in charge must ensure that:
- a) the competent observer is fully briefed on the planned flight and what is expected of him/her taking into account the prevailing conditions;
 - b) the competent observer understands that he/she must stay directly adjacent to the person in charge and maintain direct unaided visual contact with the SUA at all times, to visually and aurally monitor the airspace for other aircraft and the take-off and landing area for any persons;
 - c) the competent observer has been instructed on the actions to take in the event of another aircraft being spotted and a risk of collision is assessed; and
 - d) the competent observer understands that he/she must advise if the SUA is proceeding beyond the point at which he/she is able to monitor its flight path sufficiently to identify a risk of collision.
- 8) This exemption supersedes Official Record Series 4 No. 1108, which is revoked.
- 9) This exemption has effect from the date it is signed until 30 April 2017, unless previously revoked.

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for the Civil Aviation Authority

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Notes:

- 1) First Person View flying is the ability to control a radio controlled aircraft from a “pilot’s eye” perspective through the use of an on-board camera and ground-based receiving and viewing equipment. The viewing equipment is normally a set of video goggles.
- 2) The person in charge remains responsible for the safety of the operation and may only fly the SUA if reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made.
- 3) This does not remove the requirement (in paragraph 3(b)) for the competent observer to maintain direct unaided visual contact with the SUA throughout the flight. Therefore, the SUA can only be flown up to 1,000 ft if it can still be seen sufficiently for collision avoidance purposes.
- 4) This exempts only from article 166(3). The other provisions of article 166 and the whole of article 167 continue to apply, so far as may be applicable. In particular, article 166(5) prohibits flight for the purposes of aerial work except in accordance with a permission granted by the CAA.