



The Falkland Islands Government

Civil Aviation Department Law & Regulation Directorate

Return Completed Application to:
Civil Aviation Department
Law & Regulation Directorate
PO Box 705
Stanley, Falkland Islands
FIQQ1ZZ
civilaviation@sec.gov.fk
www.fig.gov.fk/aviation

Thank you for your enquiry about flying a Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) in the Falkland Islands. The purpose of this letter is to help you identify whether you require a Permission to operate your SUA in the Falkland Islands, and to provide guidance on the Regulations and other things you may need to consider.

NB: SUA refers to both Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) and Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircraft (SUSA)

Do I need a Permission?

If the planned activity with your SUA fits either of the descriptions below you will need a Permission from the Civil Aviation Department:

Article 73(5) of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order 2013 (AN(OT)O) states that the Person in Charge (PiC) of a small unmanned aircraft must not fly the aircraft for the purposes of aerial work except in accordance with a permission granted by the Governor*

Aerial Work is defined by the AN(OT)O as meaning any purpose (other than commercial air transport) for which an aircraft is flown if valuable consideration is given or promised in respect of the flight or purpose of the flight.

Article 73(6) of the AN(OT)O states that the person in charge of a small unmanned surveillance aircraft must not fly the aircraft in any of the circumstances described in paragraph (7) (abbreviated below) except in accordance with a permission issued by the Governor*:

1. Over or within 150 meters of any congested area;
2. Over or within 150 meters of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons;
3. Within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft;
4. Within 50 meters of any person not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft;
5. Within 30 meters of any person not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft during take-off and landing.

**For the purposes of this article the Governor refers to the Director of Civil Aviation, Falkland Islands.*

If you do need a Permission you can get an Application Form from the Civil Aviation Department office – civilaviation@sec.gov.fk or from the website - www.fig.gov.fk/aviation/flying-into-the-falkland-islands/drones-in-the-falklands

If the planned activities with your SUA do not fit either of the above descriptions then it is likely you do not require a Permission – however if you are in any doubt please contact the office, either by telephone or email, to discuss the details and we can provide the necessary advice.

What are the Regulations?

The regulations outlined below must be followed at all times, whether you are operating privately or for aerial work:

1. You must not cause or permit any article or animal (whether or not attached to a parachute) to be dropped from a small unmanned aircraft so as to endanger persons or property;
2. You may only fly the aircraft if reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made;
3. You must maintain direct, unaided visual contact with the aircraft at all times, sufficient to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions;

4. You must not fly the aircraft for the purpose of aerial work except in accordance with a permission granted by the Falkland Islands Director of Civil Aviation (DCA);
5. You must not recklessly or negligently cause or permit the aircraft to endanger any person or property;
6. If it appears to the DCA or an authorised person that the aircraft is intended or likely to be flown in such circumstances that the flight would be in contravention of any other provision of the AN(OT)O or of any regulation made under it, and be a cause of danger to any person or property, that person may Direct you not to permit the aircraft to make a particular flight or any other flight until such a Direction has been revoked.
7. Except in accordance with a permission issued by the DCA, you must not
 - a. Fly over or within 150 meters of any congested area
 - b. Fly over or within 150 meters of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons
 - c. Fly within 50 meters of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under your control
 - d. Fly within 50 meters of any person who is not you or under your control
 - e. Fly within 30 meters of any person who is not you or under your control during take-off and landing.

If you have any questions regarding the regulations please don't hesitate to contact the office, either by telephone or email, to discuss the details and we can provide the necessary advice.

What else do I need to consider?

Air Traffic Zones

The Stanley Airport Air Traffic Zone (ATZ) extends horizontally on a 4 mile radius from the airport and vertically up to a height of 2000 feet. This ATZ encompasses the town of Stanley and therefore we ask that if you plan to operate your SUA within this area you first call Stanley Information on (+500) 27301 to inform them of your intended flight and ask whether this will be in conflict with any other aircraft operations in the area. If Stanley Airport ask that you delay or cancel your intended SUA flight then please do so.

Mount Pleasant Airport does not really have a defined ATZ but does monitor aircraft movements across the whole of the Falkland Islands, especially military and military-contracted aircraft such as Typhoon fast jets, Hercules aircraft, British International helicopters and the Search and Rescue helicopters. If you intend to operate your SUA outside of Stanley and think your operations may conflict with those of other aircraft please contact Mount Pleasant Air Traffic Controllers on (+500) 73661. If Mount Pleasant Airport ask that you delay or cancel your intended SUA flight then please do so.

If you have any questions regarding air traffic zones please don't hesitate to contact the office, either by telephone or email, to discuss the details and we can provide the necessary advice.

Your Responsibilities

A Permission issued by the Civil Aviation Department only meets the requirements of aviation legislation and does not absolve the PiC of the SUA from the responsibility of holding adequate valid liability insurance to cover the intended SUA flights, or from complying with the requirements of other national agencies or stakeholders.

Although liability insurance is not a mandatory requirement it is best practice to have cover for your intended operations.

Wildlife

When using an SUA to capture footage of wildlife the PiC must always adhere to the Falkland Islands Countryside Code. For more information regarding environmental regulations and legislation please contact the Falkland Islands Government Environmental Planning Department on (+500) 28427 or environmental.officer@sec.gov.fk

Private Land

Outside of Stanley almost all of the land is privately owned. Please ensure that you have landowner permission prior to commencing any SUA flights on and over private land.

Media Accreditation

It may be that you need Accreditation for your intended SUA flights. Please contact the Falkland Islands Government PR, Media & Communications Office on (+500) 27400 or communications.head@sec.gov.fk for more details.

If you have any questions about any part of this document or the Application Form or drone use in the Falkland Islands please contact the office, either by telephone or email, and we can provide the necessary advice.

Yours sincerely,



Bruce Wilks
Director of Civil Aviation
Falkland Islands Government