

# CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

## SPECIAL REGULATION No. 1 of 2016

*Issued pursuant to the Civil Aviation Act, Chapter 284*

*Civil Aviation (Safety) Regulations, 2001, Sub. Leg. Vol. IV-41, Ch.284, (S.I. 60 of 2001)  
as amended by the Civil Aviation (Safety) (Amendment) Regulations, 2013, (S.I. 39 of 2013)*

The proliferation of unmanned aircraft systems for use by the general public presents a challenge to International Civil Aviation Organization member States to regulate effectively. The Civil Aviation Department has submitted draft regulations, Schedule 27 of the Civil Aviation (Safety) Regulations, to govern the use of unmanned and remotely piloted aircraft. The draft regulations have been available for comment on the Civil Aviation Department's website for the past year, and are now before the Attorney-General & Minister of Legal Affairs for final review.

In light of the increased demand for permission to import these unmanned aircraft systems into The Bahamas for recreational and hobby use, the Civil Aviation Department considers it important to issue a special regulation pursuant to Regulation 1.260 of the Civil Aviation (Safety) Regulations requiring that all such aircraft be registered.

The objective of this special regulation is to incorporate into the Civil Aviation (Safety) Regulations, requirements which are specific to The Bahamas' civil aviation environment and which the Civil Aviation Department has identified as necessary to protect the public interest and safety in compliance with section 1.250(4) of Schedule 1 of the Civil Aviation (Safety) Regulations.

Effective 1 February 2016 all persons wishing to import unmanned aircraft systems into The Bahamas, whether for commercial or recreational use, must first obtain a Certificate of Registration from the Civil Aviation Department in order for the Customs Department to release the unmanned aircraft system to the owner.

Owners of unmanned aircraft systems already in The Bahamas have until 29 February 2016, to register the unmanned aircraft systems with the Civil Aviation Department. Failure to register may result in the unmanned aircraft systems being detained by the Flight Standards Inspectorate of the Civil Aviation Department. This special regulation shall remain in effect for 12 months from the date hereof, until the requirement has been incorporated into law or until this special regulation is repealed by the Civil Aviation Department, whichever is earlier.

To obtain a Certificate of Registration the person in charge of an unmanned aircraft system must agree to not fly the unmanned aircraft systems in any of the circumstances described below *except* in accordance with a permission issued by the Civil Aviation Department.

The restricted circumstances referred to above are as follows -

- (a) within 5 nautical miles of any airport;
- (b) at a height not exceeding 200 ft.;
- (c) within 500 ft. of any congested or populated area;
- (d) within 500 ft. of an organized open-air assembly of more than 100 persons;
- (e) within 100 ft. of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the unmanned aircraft system, without special permission of the owner of the vessel, vehicle or structure;

(f) within 175 ft. of any person;

(g) during takeoff or landing, an unmanned aircraft system must not be flown within 100 ft. of any person;

(h) paragraphs ( f ) & (g) do not apply to the person in charge of an unmanned aircraft systems or a person under the control of the person in charge of an unmanned aircraft system.

**N.B. The Civil Aviation Department will not be responsible for any accidents, incidents, mishaps, injuries or damage that may occur as a result of the operation of unmanned and remotely controlled aircraft, and will require that the operator/owner assume such liability.**

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Keith Major

Director of Civil Aviation Department (Actg.)

1 February 2016