

A GUIDE FOR THE SAFE OPERATION OF MODEL AIRCRAFT, SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT, UAVs, DRONES AND SMALL UNMANNED SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT IN GUERNSEY AND ALDERNEY



1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document has been produced by Guernsey Airport and the Director of Civil Aviation (DCA) to provide guidance to operators of Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA) and Small Unmanned Surveillance Aircraft (SUSA) who wish to fly their equipment in Guernsey and Alderney.
- 1.2 The latest SUA have very advanced capabilities and are becoming widely used for photography, filming, and survey. This requires an understanding of the safety and operational limitations that are appropriate for the islands. Similarly, operational restrictions apply in the vicinity of Guernsey and Alderney Airports, these being intended to protect 'normal' air traffic.
- 1.3 Operators wishing to use SUA for aerial work and surveillance (e.g. filming and photography operations) in Guernsey or Alderney must seek the approval of the Director of Civil Aviation. .
- 1.4 All references to SUA and SUSA should be interpreted to apply to other 'model aircraft' of the same category but which may be known by alternative names such as 'Drone', Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), Remotely Piloted Vehicle (RPV), Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), Small Aircraft, Helicopter, "Multi" Rotor etc.
- 1.5 **Aerial work** means any purpose for which an aircraft is flown if valuable consideration is given or promised in respect of the flight or the purpose of the flight (e.g. the SUA is used to take photos which payment is received).

2 The Requirements for the operation of SUA are as follows

- 2.1 A person shall not recklessly or negligently cause or permit an aircraft to endanger any person or property.
- 2.2 A person shall 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.
- 2.3 The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft may only fly the aircraft if reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made.
- 2.4 The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft shall maintain direct, unaided visual contact 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. They must give way to manned aircraft at all times.
- 2.5 The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft shall not fly the aircraft above 400ft agl unless the permission of Air Traffic Control Unit has been obtained.
- 2.6 The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft shall not fly the aircraft within the airspace designated in the aerodrome traffic zone unless the permission of the appropriate Air Traffic Control Unit has been obtained.
- 2.7 The person in charge of a small unmanned aircraft shall not fly the aircraft for the purposes of aerial work except in accordance with a permission granted by the Director of Civil Aviation
- 2.8 The person in charge of a small unmanned surveillance aircraft shall not fly the aircraft in any of the circumstances described below except in accordance with a permission issued by the Director of Civil Aviation:
 - (a) over or within 150 metres of any congested area;
 - (b) over or within 150 metres of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons
 - (c) within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft; or



(d) within 50 metres of any person.

- 2.9 Except during take-off or landing, a small unmanned surveillance aircraft shall not be flown within 30 metres of any person. These conditions do not apply to the person in charge of the small unmanned surveillance aircraft or a person under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft.

3 Operating height

- 3.1 All SUA in Guernsey and Alderney are restricted to operations not exceeding 400 feet above ground level unless the permission of Air Traffic Control has been obtained.

4 Guernsey and Alderney Airspace

- 4.1 Any operation of SUA/SUSA within 2nm of Guernsey or Alderney Airports, and within designated approach and departure sectors, must be authorised by Air Traffic Control (ATC) prior to flight.
- 4.2 In addition to maintaining direct, visual Line of Sight (VLOS) and keeping to a height of no more than 400 feet above the surface, SUA pilots should avoid and give way to manned aircraft at all times.

5 Data Protection

- 5.1 The DCA permission process to operate a SUA is only intended to assist in ensuring the flights can be accomplished safely. The permission does not extend rights to any other purpose such as the collection of images, data or for advertising purposes. Aircraft operators and pilots should be aware that the collection of images of identifiable individuals, even inadvertently, when using surveillance cameras mounted on a SUSA, may be subject to the **Data Protection (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2001**. Further information about the Data Protection Law and the circumstances in which it applies can be obtained from the **Data Protection Commissioner**.

6 Aircraft and Public Liability Insurance

- 6.1 Although 'model' aircraft of less than 20 kg are not necessarily required to have specific aviation insurance, SUA operators are strongly advised to have sufficient Public Liability insurance to cover their type of SUA activity.

7 Do you need Permission to operate a Small Unmanned Aircraft with a mass of less than 7kgs?

- 7.1 Essentially, the person controlling a SUA/SUSA is fully responsible for the safe operation of any flight, but it is important to consider whether a permission (not a licence) from the Director of Civil Aviation or Guernsey/Alderney Air Traffic Control is needed.
- 7.2 You **must request permission** from the DCA if you plan to:
- fly the aircraft on a commercial basis (i.e. conducting 'aerial work')
or
 - fly a camera/surveillance fitted aircraft within congested areas or closer (than the distances listed above) to people or properties (vehicles, vessels or structures) that are not under your control
- 7.3 DCA Permission **is not required** if the aircraft will not be flown close to people or properties, and you will not get 'valuable consideration' (i.e. payment) from the flight.
- 7.4 Permission **is not required** for 'practice' or demonstration flights. However, the other requirements must still be complied with, and it must also be ensured that no one is endangered while flying the aircraft.
- 7.5 Permission **is required** from Guernsey ATC if you plan to fly the aircraft within 2nm of Guernsey or Alderney Airports, in certain designated areas of the island, or above 400ft over the islands.
- 7.6 The regulations are intended to protect people and / or properties that are not involved in the activity, and are aimed at being as 'light a touch' and proportionate as possible. A great deal can be done (especially for private or recreational flights) without the need to approach the DCA or ATC.

8 Queries

- 8.1 Queries or requests for further information regarding the operation of SUA/SUSA may be addressed to:

Manager ATC Guernsey and Alderney

01481 237766