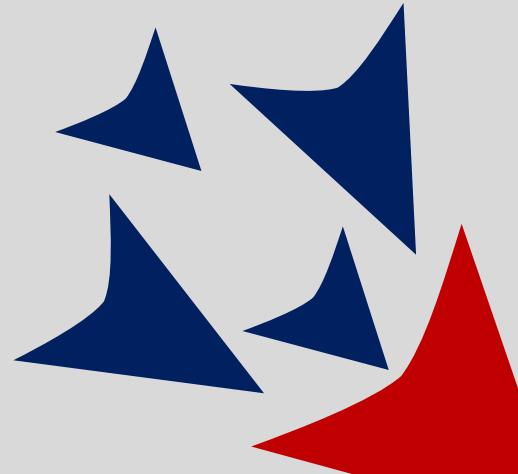


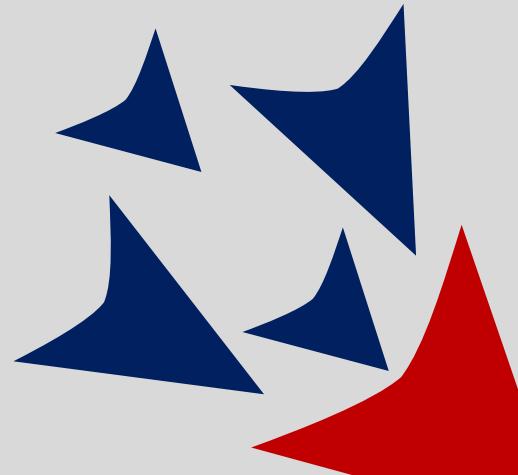
2021 UK drone laws: A quick guide to what's changed





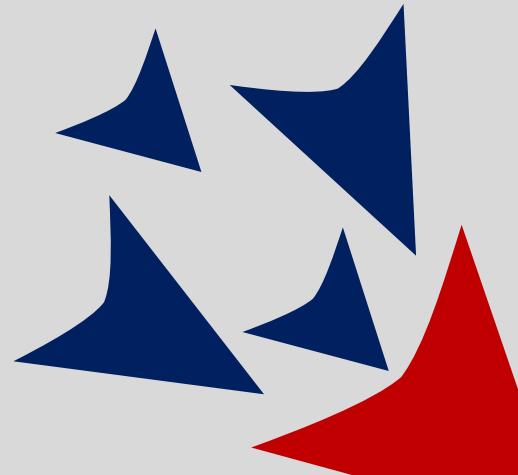
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Whether you're flying commercially or recreationally, the rules and regulations are now the same for everyone





Until the 31st December 2020, the required level of pilot competency & certification was based fundamentally on whether or not commercial gain would be made as a result of flying a drone. In contrast, the new rules no longer require pilots to identify if their flights are commercial or non-commercial. Instead, the focus is now simply to align pilot competency with the level of risk that each flight presents. In other words, the greater the risk; the more rigorous the training & certification requirement.



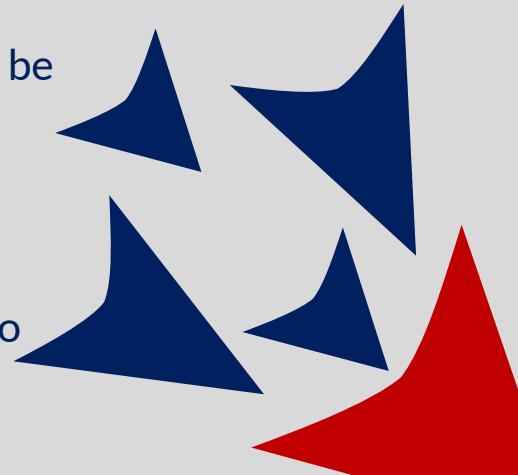


Factors that determine risk and how those risks are now categorised:

- Weight of the drone when in flight (including any accessories);
- how close the drone will fly from people not directly involved with the flight ('Uninvolved People'); and
- how close the drone will fly from built-up areas (e.g. towns, cities, industrial areas, recreation areas etc.).

The associated risks are now broken down into three main categories:

- **Open** – Low risk operations that can be safely carried out without the need for any prior authorisation from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
- **Specific** – Medium risk operations that cannot be conducted under the limitations of the Open Category. Requires higher level of proven pilot competency and clearly defined operating procedures, authorised by the CAA
- **Certified** – High risk operations that are akin to those associated with manned aircraft





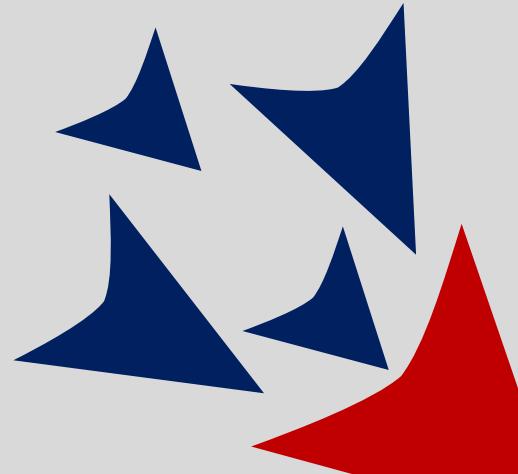
What you can do right now when flying in the Open Category and what you need to comply:

Drone flying weight	What you can do (as of 31 st Dec 2020)	Training requirement
All (up to 25 kg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly for commercial gain (ie. to make money) • Fly at a minimum horizontal distance of 50m from uninvolved people (different for sub 250 g drones – see below) • Fly at a minimum horizontal distance of 150m from built-up areas (can be different for sub 2 kg drones – see below) • Fly with no minimum horizontal distance from isolated property (vehicles, vessels & structures) 	- Online foundation test
≤ 250 g	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly with no minimum horizontal distance from uninvolved people (NOT crowds) • Fly with no minimum horizontal distance from built-up areas 	- Online foundation test
≤ 2 kg	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly with no minimum horizontal distance from built-up areas 	- Online foundation test - A2 C of C course
<i>Operation of drones up to 25 kg that cannot comply with the above criteria (e.g. operating a +2 kg drone within 150m of a built-up area)</i>		- Online foundation test - General Visual Line of Sight Certificate (GVC)



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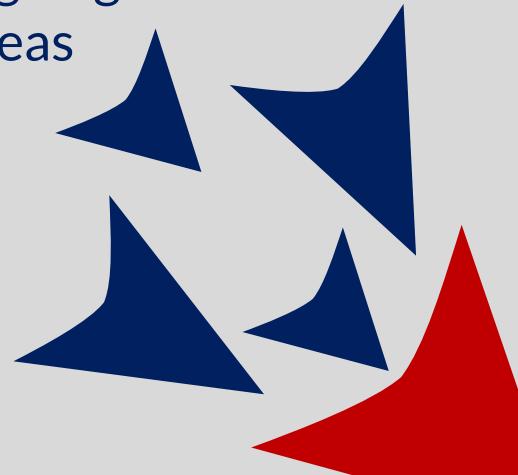
Two new pilot qualifications





Whilst it still remains valid for existing holders, the “PfCO” qualification has essentially been superseded by two brand new qualifications:

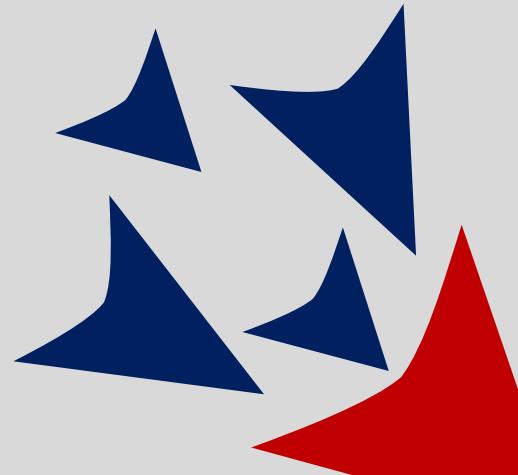
- **A2 Certificate of Competency (A2 C of C):**
enables operation of drones weighing between 250 g and 2 kg within built-up areas
- **General Visual Line of Sight Certificate (GVC):**
enables operation of drones weighing between 2 kg and 25 kg within built-up areas





3

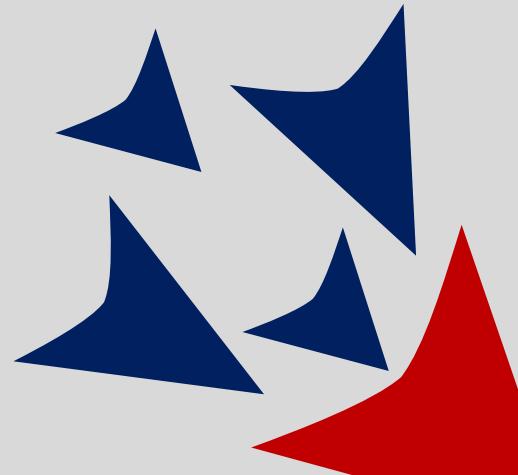
Drones' maximum flying weight increased from 20 kg to 25 kg





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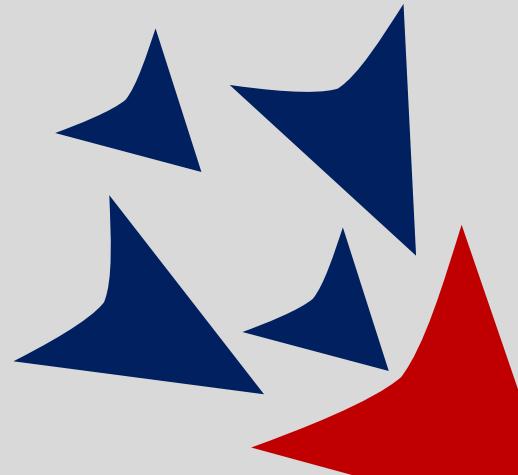
Whether the drone is fitted with a camera or not is no longer a factor for separation distances





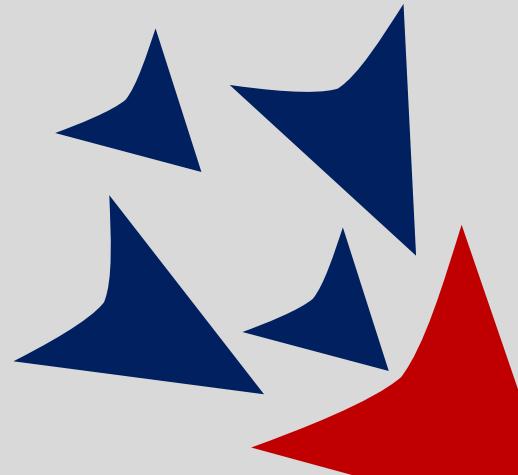
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**A Flyer ID is now required for
any camera-equipped drone,
even sub 250 g**





**What carry over is there from
the previous regulations?**





Whilst there are some significant changes to the UK drone regulations, there is also some carry over, which all drone operators must continue to abide by:

1. The CAA's [Drone and Model Aircraft Code](#) continues
2. Maximum flying height remains at 120 metres (400 ft) from the earth's surface
3. Pilot must maintain visual line of sight of the drone at all times, unless the necessary prior exemptions have been granted by the CAA
4. Drone must not be flown within any Flight Restriction Zone (FRZ), unless the necessary prior permissions have been granted by the relevant authority

