

# Enabling Drone Integration



Our vision is to create a  
**thriving, innovative and  
safe drone sector**

We propose to introduce a series of regulatory measures to **enable drone integration into New Zealand's civil aviation system.**

**We would gradually implement each measure,** beginning with Rules updates, basic pilot qualification and registration.

Remote identification and geo-awareness would require further work.

These regulatory measures are complementary but would be implemented separately, with each having distinct benefits and challenges.



## There are Civil Aviation Rules [the Rules] that apply to drone operations:

- Part 101 contains 12 prescriptive Rules that capture low risk operations.
- Part 102 is a risk-based certification framework that accommodates riskier operations [that fall outside the remit of Part 101] for which an Operator Certificate is required.

We want to improve aviation safety and security by addressing the following problems:



**Compliance:** while the Rules have been in place since 2015, still too many people get them wrong.



**Enforcement:** we don't know 'who is flying what', which makes it hard to enforce Rules when required.



**Suitability of the current regulatory framework:** some Rules are no longer working as intended and do not help achieve the best safety outcomes.



**System sustainability:** our current aviation system and infrastructure prevent us from getting the most out of drones.





## Rules updates

We aim to make the Rules clearer, fairer and future focused.

**Major Rules** updates would only occur if the series of regulatory measures is implemented. These include the creation of a standalone Rule Part specifically for drone operations, the removal or relaxation of the requirement for consent to fly over private property and people, and the review of the minimum flight distance from aerodromes currently set at four kilometres.

**Minor Rules** updates will introduce definitions and clarify Rules where needed.



## Basic pilot qualification

We aim to improve knowledge and awareness of the Rules. With a basic pilot qualification you could:

- fly a drone weighing up to 25 kilograms under Part 101 of the Rules
- supervise an unqualified operator (if you are 16 years or older).

The test would be simple and online, with no minimum age. Some exemptions may apply.



## Registration

We want to be able to identify drones and their owners to ensure that important information can be communicated to operators, and improve enforcement. You would be required to register if:

- your drone weighs 250 grams or over
- you are an individual (if you are 14 years or older) or business/organisation.

Registration would be online and user friendly with a unique number issued and to be displayed for each drone. Some exemptions may apply.



## Remote identification

We want to improve situational awareness for drone operators and other parties through effective drone identification, and improve enforcement.

Remote identification refers to an onboard system that would enable the transmission of drone identification (e.g. drone registration number) and real-time information about the flight, that third parties can receive.



## Geo-awareness

It should be simple for drone operators to know where they can and cannot fly. Improved situational awareness would also benefit other parties and help protect sensitive sites and infrastructure.

This requires the creation of a digital map that provides all necessary aeronautical information for drone operations. Certain drones would be required to use geo-awareness technology for certain operations.





Find the documents here:

[www.transport.govt.nz/drone-consultation](http://www.transport.govt.nz/drone-consultation)



Have your say:

Email: [enablingdroneintegration@transport.govt.nz](mailto:enablingdroneintegration@transport.govt.nz)

or

Enabling Drone Integration -  
Consultation  
Ministry of Transport  
PO Box 3175  
Wellington 6140

You can also have your say online  
at: [www.transport.govt.nz/drone-consultation](http://www.transport.govt.nz/drone-consultation)



Submissions close 5pm,  
Friday 21 May 2021.



Ministry of **Transport**  
TE MANATŪ WAKA



CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY  
OF NEW ZEALAND  
Te Mana Rererangi Tōmatanui o Aotearoa