

To,
Shri Lalit Gupta,
Joint Director General of Civil Aviation,
O/o The Director General of Civil Aviation,
Technical Center, Opp. Safdarjung Airport,
New Delhi 110003

Ref: Air Transport Circular XX-2016, Draft Guidelines for obtaining Unique Identification No. (UIN) and operation of Civil Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) dated 21/04/2016.

Subject: DGCA Draft Guidelines - Exemptions sought for Model Aircraft for Recreational / Hobby / Sport purposes

Respected Sir,

With an aim to learn aerodynamics, theory of flight, and flying manoeuvres to participate in competitions or to undertake as a hobby, and to promote education/research in the field and to inculcate air mindedness amongst the youth and all bona fide enthusiasts, no other provision or clause in this policy (apart from the definitions in Section 2) will apply to recreational flying, bona fide aeromodellers of all ages indulging in the same hobby/sport, and model aircraft (as defined in this Section 2), provided such recreational flying and model aircraft are governed by the following conditions:

1. A model aircraft could be of any type and dimensions, fixed wing or otherwise, provided the weight does not exceed 50 kilos overall.
2. All flying of model aircraft have to be carried out within visual line of sight (VLOS) of pilot flying the same and within the area permitted for carrying out such exercise. Vertical limit for flying should be limited to 500 feet only.
3. No model aircraft shall carry any payload (as defined in Section 2) including any camera, for any purpose whatsoever, for any length of time, at any location, for any purpose whatsoever.
4. All recreational flying will happen only between sunrise and sunset
5. All recreational flyers shall strive to fly in ideal meteorological conditions with the minimum requirements being the following:
 - a) Visibility of 3000 metres horizontally and 160 metres vertically.
 - b) Wind speed of not more than 20 knots.
6. The model will not have any sensors / GPS / RTL / or other equipments that could allow the model to fly without control inputs from the pilot. However the free flight model aircraft may not have any radio control. Further, in interest of additional safety, any device or failsafe arrangement to minimise damage by preventing the model aircraft from crashing in case of battery or radio link failure is permitted.
7. No such recreational flying activity shall be conducted over restricted, prohibited, danger areas, military cantonments, security installations, protected monuments as notified from time to time, and over densely populated areas.

8. International operation of model aircraft across territory over water shall be strictly prohibited. No recreational flying over the entire airspace over the territory of Delhi and 50 Kms from the international borders shall be permitted.
9. No flying shall be permitted so as to be in conflict of safe conduct of operations in the vicinity (including approach paths and departure paths) of operational airports, except when authorized. Any violations of this rule can attract penal provisions (as may be legislated upon) including but not limited to imprisonment.
10. The place, date, and time/schedules of recreational flying to be notified to local police in advance, and such notification will be responsibility of the club / institutions.
11. Mandatory for all recreational pilots to be registered with an aeromodelling club or to participate as a participant from his college or institution. However, no requirement of UIN or UAOP for recreational flying by DGCA. All club / institutions will be responsible for issuing registration to their members to be displayed on their model aircrafts.
12. Any kind of powered or unpowered model aircrafts can be used for recreational flying.
13. Use of only delicensed frequency band as notified by WPC from time to time.
14. Unloading or dropping of any item of any kind from the model aircraft, while performing recreational flying, is strictly prohibited.
15. Import of model aircrafts, their spares, parts and accessories, by individuals / clubs / institutions / body, should be permitted without any restrictions or conditions of approval from DGCA, in accordance to the Import Trade Control policies as existing or as maybe modified time to time.
16. Model aircraft of overall weight less than 500 grams, or any model aircraft of any specification being flown indoors, will be completely exempted from any regulation under the guidelines relating to UAS, including those in this section on recreational flying, with the exception of payload restrictions.

I respectfully suggest that you may kindly incorporate the above sections in your existing draft so that this may regulate the activity of recreational flying.

Sincerely,