

Drone Operations Policy & Compliance Statement

Last Updated: 07/06/2025

Operational Category: CAA Open Category A1

Applicable to Sub-250g Drones with Cameras

Overview

This document outlines Bluedeck Ltd's ("Bluedeck", "we", "us" or "our") operational policies and regulatory compliance framework for drone activities conducted under the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Open Category A1. It is designed to ensure all flight operations meet national safety standards, legal requirements, and industry best practices.

This policy applies to all drone operations undertaken, whether for commercial, research, inspection, creative, or recreational purposes.

1. CAA Regulations: Open Category A1 (Sub-250g Drones)

Under the CAA's regulatory framework, drones under 250g with cameras (such as the DJI Mini 4 Pro) fall under the Open Category A1, subject to the following conditions:

Legal Requirements

- **Operator ID:** Mandatory by law for any drone with a camera.
- **Flyer ID:** Recommended but not legally required for drones under 250g. Operators flying on behalf of the company must obtain a Flyer ID to promote safety and compliance.
- **Insurance:** Required for any commercial activity. Insurance must include third-party liability and be compliant with Assimilated Regulation (EU) 785/2004.

Flight Restrictions

- **Maximum Altitude:** 120 meters (400 feet) above ground level.
- **Visual Line of Sight (VLOS):** Must be maintained throughout the duration of the flight.
- **Proximity to People:**
 - No minimum distance from individuals is required.
 - Permitted to fly over people who are not part of a crowd.
 - Crowds must be avoided at all times. A "crowd" is defined as a group of people who cannot move away quickly because of the number of other people around them (as defined by the CAA).
- **Proximity to Property:**
 - No minimum distance is required from residential, commercial, industrial, or recreational buildings.

Regulatory Resources

- [CAA Drone Code](#)
- [CAA Insurance Guidelines \(EU 785/2004\)](#)

2. Landowner Permission for Take-Off and Landing

We obtain permission from the landowner or site manager before using any location for drone take-off and landing.

While airspace is regulated separately, landowners retain the right to control access to their property. As such, approval must be given in advance of any planned flight activity on-site.

If you are the landowner or property contact, we will provide full details of the proposed flight - including timing, purpose, and safety documentation - and ensure your consent is confirmed and recorded before proceeding.

3. Flight Restriction Zones (FRZ) & Airspace Permissions

Understanding FRZs

Certain areas in the UK are designated as Flight Restriction Zones (FRZs) - including areas around airports, heliports, and other sensitive infrastructure.

When planning operations in or near FRZs:

- The flight area is checked using authoritative sources such as Drone Assist (by Altitude Angel) to identify if the flight area is within an FRZ.
- If the intended flight location falls within an FRZ, the appropriate airspace authority (e.g., air traffic control, airport or heliport management) is contacted.
- A digital flight plan is submitted through the appropriate system (e.g., Altitude Angel, NATS Drone Portal, or equivalent).
- Approval is obtained before proceeding with any flight within the FRZ.

Note: The applicable FRZ authority and submission process will vary depending on the location of the flight.

4. Notification of Authorities

For operations in built-up, sensitive, or high-visibility areas, relevant local authorities are notified in advance to promote transparency and reduce the potential for concern.

Recommended Contacts

- Local Police Film or Events Units – For urban or publicly visible operations, especially in London or other major cities.
- Council Event or Film Offices – If operating near public spaces, parks, or heritage sites.

Example (for London):

Metropolitan Police Film Unit – filmunit@met.police.uk

5. Insurance & Risk Management

We maintain:

- A valid CAA Operator ID (and Flyer ID where applicable).
- Commercial drone insurance through a recognised provider compliant with EU 785/2004 for third-party liability.

Risk Assessments

Prior to each operation, especially in urban or populated areas, a site-specific risk assessment is conducted to evaluate:

- Environmental and human hazards
- Take-off/landing zones
- Weather conditions
- Emergency response plans
- Compliance with local authority guidelines

Documentation of the risk assessment is retained for auditing, insurance, and incident response purposes.

6. Drone Equipment & Operations

- **Standard Equipment:** DJI Mini 4 Pro (sub-250g), equipped with GPS, 4K camera, and obstacle avoidance systems.
- **Operational Use Cases:** Aerial photography, videography, real estate surveys, site inspections, promotional footage, event documentation.
- **Operator Conduct:** The operator will adhere to the CAA Drone Code and operate responsibly, prioritising safety and public confidence in drone usage.

Conclusion

Bluedeck's drone operations policy is designed to meet or exceed regulatory standards and best practices across the UK. We are committed to safety, transparency, and professionalism in every flight.

The procedures ensure that:

- All operators are authorised and insured
- Flights are pre-planned and legally approved where necessary
- Risk is mitigated through proactive assessment
- Stakeholders and authorities are informed as appropriate

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