

COMPLIANCE BULLETIN

HIGHLIGHTS

- On Jan. 9, 2019, the federal government published updated rules for flying drones in Canada. The new rules will go into effect on June 1, 2019.
- The rules apply to drones weighing 250 grams to 25 kilograms that are operated within the pilot's visual line of sight, and introduce two categories of drone operations based on proximity to bystanders and airspace rules.
- The rules include certification requirements, registration requirements and penalties.
- Businesses and individuals operating drones will need to comply with the new rules.

Government Updates Rules for Operating Drones

OVERVIEW

On Jan. 9, 2019, the federal government published updated rules—to be enforced by Transport Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)—for flying unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), more commonly known as drones, in Canada. The new rules, which apply to drones weighing 250 grams to 25 kilograms that are operated within the pilot's visual-line-of-sight, introduce two categories of drone operations based on proximity to bystanders and airspace rules. These new regulations go into effect on June 1, 2019.

New Drone Regulations

CERTIFICATION

All drone pilots are required to get a [drone pilot certificate](#)—either for basic or advanced operations. Pilots must be at least 14 years old for basic operations or 16 years old for advanced operations.

Basic operations include following all of these conditions:

- Flying in uncontrolled airspace
- Flying more than 30 metres horizontally from bystanders
- Never flying over bystanders

Advanced operations include following any one of these conditions:

- Flying in controlled airspace

Provided By:
Megson FitzPatrick Insurance Services



- Flying over bystanders
- Flying within 30 metres of bystanders (measured horizontally)

REGISTRATION

All drones weighing between 250 grams and 25 kilograms must be registered with Transport Canada and marked with issued registration. Registered drone owners may include individuals, corporations and federal, municipal or provincial governments. Individual registered drone owners must be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada and at least 14 years of age.

PENALTIES

Penalties, which may include fines or jail time, can be issued by law enforcement agencies for:

- Flying without a drone pilot certificate
 - Up to \$1,000 for individuals
 - Up to \$5,000 for corporations
- Flying unregistered or unmarked drones
 - Up to \$1,000 for individuals
 - Up to \$5,000 for corporations
- Flying where you are not allowed
 - Up to \$1,000 for individuals
 - Up to \$5,000 for corporations
- Putting aircraft and people at risk
 - Up to \$3,000 for individuals
 - Up to \$15,000 for corporations

It should also be noted that being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while operating a drone—including consuming alcohol within 12 hours of operating a drone—is prohibited.

These new rules add to current drone legislation, which outlines specifics related to drone safety. Those rules can be found [here](#). Additionally, drones weighing less than 250 grams, over 25 kilograms or beyond visual line of sight must be operated in accordance to existing regulations. More information on the upcoming rule changes can be found [here](#).