

UK Drone Law 2021

A guide to the new drone laws and regulations
that came into effect 1st January 2021

Issue 1

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How does the new drone law work?

The new drone law is divided into three groups: Open, Specific and Certified



Open Category

This category is designed for flights that present no (or little) risk, and will likely apply to recreational pilots with drones under 25kg.

This category includes 3 sub categories:

- A1 Subcategory (Fly 'over' people)
- A2 Subcategory (Fly 'close to' people)
- A3 Subcategory (Fly 'far from' people)

Qualification

None / A2 CofC



Specific Category

This category is for operations that present a greater risk than that of the Open Category. Often, flights in this category will require additional approval from the CAA.

Qualification

GVC



Certified Category

This category is for operations that present a greater risk than the Specific Category - this includes large drones and research & development.

Qualification

Operational Authorisation
(Equivalent to manned aviation)

2021 Drone law for **unqualified** pilots

Where you're allowed to fly as an unqualified drone pilot in the Open Category.

Drone Weight	0g - 249g	250g - 499g	500g - 1.99kg	2kg - 25kg
Maximum height you can fly your drone? (This is measured from the surface of the earth)	120m	120m	120m	120m
Maximum distance you can fly your drone?	500m	500m	500m	500m
Minimum distance you must fly from <i>uninvolved</i> people?	0m ¹	50m	50m	50m
Minimum distance you must fly from recreational, residential, commercial and industrial areas?	0m	150m	150m	150m
Can you fly above <i>uninvolved</i> people?	Yes ¹	No	No	No
Can you fly beyond visual line of sight?	No	No	No	No

¹ Subject to appropriate safety assessment

2021 Drone law for **A2 CofC** pilots

Where you're allowed to fly as a qualified (A2 CofC) drone pilot in the Open Category.

Drone Weight	0g - 249g	250g - 499g	500g - 1.99kg	2kg - 25kg
Maximum height you can fly your drone? (This is measured from the surface of the earth)	120m	120m	120m	120m
Maximum distance you can fly your drone?	500m	500m	500m	500m
Minimum distance you must fly from <i>uninvolved</i> people?	0m ¹	0m ¹	50m	50m
Minimum distance you must fly from recreational, residential, commercial and industrial areas?	0m	0m	0m	0m
Can you fly above <i>uninvolved</i> people?	Yes ¹	No	No	No
Can you fly beyond visual line of sight?	No	No	No	No

¹ Subject to appropriate safety assessment

2021 Drone law for **GVC** pilots

Where you're allowed to fly as a qualified (GVC) drone pilot in both the Open Category and Specific Category.

Drone Maximum Take-Off Mass (MTOM)	0 - 24.99kg	25kg - 150kg
Maximum height you can fly your drone? (This is measured from the surface of the earth)	120m	120m
Maximum distance you can fly your drone?	500m	250m
Minimum distance you must fly from <i>uninvolved</i> people?	50m / 30m ¹	50m / 30m ¹
Minimum distance you must fly from recreational, residential, commercial and industrial areas?	0m	150m
Can you fly above <i>uninvolved</i> people?	Yes ²	Yes ²
Can you fly beyond visual line of sight?	Yes ³	Yes ³

¹ Reduced flight restrictions for take-off and landing | ² Subject to appropriate safety assessment | ³ Requires additional module 1 training

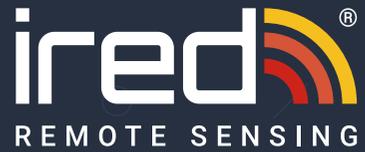
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Teaming up with iRed was the best decision I've made to do my commercial drone training. They have a deep working knowledge of the industry and qualification structure, with experienced senior instructors who know their craft inside and out. I have absolutely no hesitation in recommending iRed as the professional portal to achieving your drone qualification and further training.

Mike Couchman

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Questions? Let's talk about it!

If you have any questions or queries about drone training, call our team of experts on **+44 (0)1243 370 296** or send your questions to **training@ired.ac.uk**

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