

Feature of Drone Rules

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Introduction

Drones also known as unmanned aerial vehicles which operate without a human pilot on board. Drones are also called as RPVs (Remotely piloted vehicles) which is operated remotely either the operator maintaining visual contact with the aircraft or autonomously along the pre-programmed paths using GPS and inertial guidance.

Features of Drone Rules, 2021

The Drone Rules, 2021, introduced by the Central Government of India, bring about significant changes to the regulatory framework for drones. Here are the key features of the Drone Rules, 2021:

1. Trust-Based System:

- ➔ The rules are based on trust, self-certification, and non-intrusive monitoring.

2. Balancing Growth and Safety:

- ➔ Designed to promote super-normal growth in the drone industry while ensuring a balance with safety and security considerations.

3. Reduction in Forms and Fees:

- ➔ Number of forms reduced from 25 to 5.
- ➔ Types of fees reduced from 72 to 4.
- ➔ Quantum of fees reduced to nominal levels and delinked from the size of the drone.

4. Digital Sky Platform:

- ➔ Development of a user-friendly online single-window system called the Digital Sky Platform, with minimal human interface for permissions.

5. Airspace Map:

- ➔ Interactive drone airspace map displaying red and yellow zones.

6. No Permission in Green Zones:

- ➔ No permission required for operating drones in green zones.

7. Reduced Yellow Zone:

- ➔ Yellow zone, where ATC permission is required, reduced from 45 km to 12 km from the airport perimeter.

8. Exemptions for Micro and Nano Drones:

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- ➔ No remote pilot license required for micro drones (for non-commercial use) and nano drones.

9. Regulation of Imports:

- ➔ Import of drones to be regulated by DGFT, with no requirement for import clearance from DGCA.

10. Security Clearance:

- ➔ No security clearance required before issuance of any registration or license.

11. Increased Weight Coverage:

- ➔ Coverage of drones under drone rules increased from 300 kg to 500 kg, covering drone taxis.

12. Training and Licenses:

- ➔ DGCA to prescribe drone training requirements, oversee drone schools, and provide pilot licenses online.

13. Foreign Ownership:

- ➔ No restriction on foreign ownership in Indian drone companies.

14. Quick Remote Pilot License Issuance:

- ➔ Remote pilot license to be issued by DGCA within 15 days from an authorized drone school through the digital sky platform.

15. Type Certificate Requirements:

- ➔ Type Certificate required only when a drone is to be operated in India. Importing and manufacturing drones purely for exports are exempt from

type certification and unique identification number.

- ➔ Nano and model drones (made for research or recreation purposes) are exempt from type certification.

16. Self-Certification for Unique Identification Numbers:

- ➔ Manufacturers and importers may generate their drones' unique identification number on the digital sky platform through the self-certification route.

17. Easier Process for Transfer and Deregistration:

- ➔ The process made easy for transfer and deregistration of drones through the digital sky platform.

18. Issuance of Unique Identification Number:

- ➔ Drones present in India on or before November 30, 2021, will be issued a unique identification number through the digital sky platform

19. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Training Procedure Manuals (TPM):

- ➔ SOP and TPM will be prescribed by DGCA on the digital sky platform for self-monitoring by users.

20. Safety and Security Features:

- ➔ Safety and security features like 'No Permission – No Takeoff' (NPNT),

real-time tracking beacon, geo-fencing, etc., to be notified in the future. A six-month lead time will be provided to the industry for compliance.

21. Maximum Penalty Reduced:

- ➔ Maximum penalty for violations reduced to INR One lakh. It was several lakhs earlier.

22. Drone Corridors:

- ➔ Drone corridors will be developed for cargo deliveries.

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