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Operation of Unmanned Aircraft

This Safety Directive contains information that is intended for mandatory compliance.

Recipients are asked to ensure that this Safety Directive is copied to all members of their staff who may have an interest in the information (including any 'in-house' or contracted maintenance organisations and relevant outside contractors).

Applicability: All persons

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Authority has recognised that there has been huge growth in the development and use of unmanned aircraft such as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS). It is acknowledged that there is a lot of interest in their recreational and commercial use. It should be noted however that they are in effect aircraft regulated under civil aviation regulations and do present a number of safety risks, particularly in the vicinity of controlled airspace and over populated areas.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Directive is to provide an acceptable framework for the use of such aircraft that is consistent with aviation regulations addressing safety and security.

2. Terminology

- 2.1 For the purpose of this document, the following terminology is used:

'Unmanned aircraft' shall mean an aircraft without a human pilot on board, whose flight is controlled either autonomously or under the remote control of a pilot on the ground or in another vehicle.

'Congested area' in relation to a city, town or settlement, means any area which is substantially used for residential, industrial, commercial or recreational purposes.

'Controlled airspace' means airspace which has been notified by the Authority as Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D or Class E airspace.

3. Requirements as applicable to operation of unmanned aircraft

- 3.1.1 A person must not cause or permit any article or animal (whether or not attached to a parachute) to be dropped from an unmanned aircraft so as to endanger persons or property.

- 3.1.2 The person in charge of an unmanned aircraft may only fly the aircraft if reasonably satisfied that the flight can safely be made.
- 3.1.3 The person in charge of an unmanned aircraft must maintain direct, unaided visual contact with the aircraft sufficient to monitor its flight path in relation to other aircraft, persons, vehicles, vessels and structures for the purpose of avoiding collisions.
- 3.1.4 The person in charge of an unmanned aircraft must not fly the aircraft at night.
- 3.1.5 The person in charge of an unmanned aircraft, must not fly the aircraft in the following areas:
- (a) in controlled airspace unless the permission of the appropriate air traffic control unit has been obtained;
 - (b) within an aerodrome traffic zone notified by the Authority during the notified hours of watch of the air traffic control unit (if any) at that aerodrome unless the permission of any such air traffic control unit has been obtained;
 - (c) at a height of more than 200 feet above the surface unless it is flying in airspace described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) and in accordance with the requirements for that airspace;
 - (d) within 15 km of a public use aerodrome
 - (e) within the boundaries of a prohibited, restricted or danger area notified by the Authority.
 - (f) over or within 150 metres of any congested area;
 - (g) over or within 150 metres of an organised open-air assembly of more than 1,000 persons;
 - (h) within 50 metres of any vessel, vehicle or structure which is not under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft;
 - (i) subject to paragraphs (j) and (k), within 50 metres of any person;
 - (j) during take-off or landing, an unmanned aircraft must not be flown within 30 metres of any person other than the person in charge of the unmanned aircraft or a person under the control of the person in charge of the aircraft; or
 - (k) over or within 150 metres of a private residence without the agreement of the owner.

4. Permission

Permission shall be requested in writing to:

Chief Executive Officer
Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority
P.O Box 181
Mahe
Seychelles

5. Queries

Any queries or further guidance required as a result of this Safety Directive should be addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer
Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority
P.O Box 181

Mahe
Seychelles

6. Cancellation

Nil