

FAA REG'S REVIEW

Part 107

A set of rules governing flights of commercial Small UAS weighing less than 55 lbs. A pilot must pass a knowledge test administered by an FAA testing facility. Click this link for a review of the Part 107 rule - [Part 107 Summary](#)

Part 137

Rules for drones used to dispense any economic hazard. This also includes spreading seeds and other particles. Originally written to govern fixed wing and helicopters used in agricultural services (crop dusters). Multiple exemptions are required to allow pilots to operate drones under this rule. FAA circular regarding this rule - [FAA Circular](#)

Section 44807

Governs the use of drones weighing over 55 lbs in flight operations, Ag related or otherwise. It allows for Pilots to apply for certain exemptions that will allow them to fly the T-Series drones for Ag work. Click this link to see more on - [44807 Guidance](#)



Agricultural Drones in the US

Flying a drone is not complicated. Planning a mission and putting the drone in flight is simple. However, the rules governing the use of drones within the United States can be complicated. This overview helps summarize the key terminology and important factors you need to know prior to flying drones.

Part 107 in detail

More specifically, the Small Unmanned Aircraft Rule (Part 107). This rule applies to commercial pilots operating a UAS weighing less than 55 lbs. Commercial is defined as operating in support of any business. This doesn't leave too much to chance. It's important to note that you must register all drones weighing between .55 and 55 lbs. Your drone registration must be renewed every 3 years.

Drone Registration

Under 55 Pounds

Drones weighing more than .55 lbs but less than 55 lbs are required to be registered using the FAA Drone Zone website. [FAA Drone Zone](#)

All of the phantom series and the MG series drones are in the under 55 class.

Over 55 Pounds

The DJI T-Series Drones which have a take-off capability above 55 lbs are required to be registered using a paper "N" number process. This link explains those requirements - [N Number registration](#)

Part 137 Operations

Part 137 is the FAA regulation that governs the use of any aircraft in either private or commercial agricultural operations. The FAA Circular mentioned above applies to persons or entities that are seeking either a Private or Commercial Agricultural Aircraft Operator Certificate. Part 137 defines operating limitations for private operators, but the certification process for both private and commercial applicants is identical.

So to be clear, in order to use a drone (no matter of its weight) in agricultural spraying operations, both private and commercial, you should apply to your local Flight Services District Office (FSDO) for a Part 137 Certificate. Use the FAA Circular as a set of directions for completing that application.

In addition, the operator will need to apply for exemptions to certain rules in Part 137 since they were written for manned aircraft, or your operations require exemption based on operational limitations. The exemptions are requested through a "petition for exemption" as described in the 44807 Guidance page.

Volitant Suggested Sequence / Checklist

- If you intend to operate under a corporation or LLC, get that done first. All of your applications and registrations will require this information.
- Petition for your exemptions using www.regulations.gov.
- Purchase your Drone as you must have a serial number to begin the registration process. Then submit your drone registration documents to the FAA Registration Branch.
- Apply to your local FSDO for your Part 137 certificate.
- Develop your Training and Flight Operations Manuals. This will be submitted with your petition for exemption and will be inspected by the FSDO.
- Obtain a commercial Aerial Applicators license through your local department of Agriculture.
- Start to explore aviation insurance.

Although this process can seem quite complicated, it all fits together in the end. Check with the Volitant Technologies staff for options should you want to explore having our consultant complete this for you.