

Sale and resale of RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems)

A seller has an obligation of informing a buyer of regulatory requirements of flying RPAS in South Africa. A seller has to, by way of a packaging label, or in the case of the resale thereof, by way of written notification, notify the buyer of the requirements as prescribed in Document SA-CATS 101.

Operations as a hobbyist are subject to the terms of Part 94, whereas private use is restricted in terms of Part 101 of the Civil Aviation Regulations.

For private use –

- The RPAS may only be used for an individual's personal and private purposes where there is no commercial outcome, interest or gain;
- The RPA may only be operated over property for which the operator has ownership or permission;
- The RPAS can only be used in Restricted Visual Line of Sight which means within 500m of the pilot, and never to exceed the height of the highest obstacle within 300m of the pilot, during which the pilot can maintain direct unaided visual contact with the device to manage its flight and collision avoidance; and
- The pilot must observe all statutory requirements relating to liability, privacy and any other laws enforceable by any other authorities.

For all other use –

- the RPA must first be approved by the South African Civil Aviation Authority for use by way of an RPA Letter of Authority (RLA);
- all RPAs must be registered by the South African Civil Aviation Authority prior to use;
- an RPA may only be operated in terms of Part 101 of the South African Civil Aviation Regulations which includes specific requirements that the operator shall hold an RPA Pilot License;

Important Links

[Information for owners & operators](#)

[Registration of RPAS](#)

[Letter of approval for the RPA](#)

[RPAS pilot licensing](#)

[RPAS operators certificate](#)

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[RPAS Operators \(ROC/RTO\)](#)

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