UC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE ON UAS SAFETY

Newsletter – August 26, 2016

**OPERATING A DRONE NEAR AN AIRPORT**

Starting on Monday, the new Part 107 Small UAS (SUAS) regulations will be enacted.  These regulations codify many existing Small UAS operation standards and will make it easier for anyone desiring to conduct non-recreational UAS activity with the introduction of the new drone license.  A second major change introduced in the new law is in the operation of a SUAS in Class B, C, D, or E airspace which are found in the vicinity of airports which will now be handled through a separate process.

**FLYING IN THE VICINITY OF AN AIRPORT**

Unfortunately, the FAA will not be prepared to enable SUAS flights in the vicinity of airports immediately upon the enactment of the new Law.  The current estimate is that the process of the airport authorization will begin in **October**.  However, flights in Class G airspace will not require FAA authorization and will be available immediately.  Airspace classes can be determined by reading a VFR chart or through an airspace mapping service such as Airmap ([https://app.airmap.io/](https://app.airmap.io/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

Part 107 Operators will not be able to obtain authorization directly from an ATC facility.  All authorizations to operate near an airport are granted by FAA Headquarters.  Unfortunately, the FAA does not expect the authorization process to be automated until 2018.  Until then, all authorizations will be processed on a case-by-case basis.

**DETERMINING AUTHORIZATION AND FACILITY COORDINATION**

Each airport facility will generate a Unmanned Aircraft System Facility Map (UASFM) that will be used to determine the highest altitude they will allow SUAS activity without requiring further coordination.  The maps will display the facility's airspace overlaid with latitude and longitude gridlines forming rectangular segments.  Each segment will have an altitude limit between 0 and 400 ft. in which the airport has deemed that a SUAS could operate without impacting airport operations.  Airport facilities are encouraged to consider obstructions already present (such as tall trees or buildings) that would minimize air traffic risk.

Flights above the listed altitudes in the UASFM will require further coordination with the airport facility.  However, UAS requests that includes a Waiver to any provision under Part 107 will not be able to use UASFMs for authorization to operate within the vicinity of an airport facility.

**MOVING FORWARD**

The Center of Excellence on UAS Safety will prepare to obtain blanket authorizations for UC faculty, staff and students at their campuses using the UC's UAS Safety Management System to coordinate UAS activity.  We recognize the value that unmanned aircraft systems can provide to their campuses and will work to enable as much airspace as possible.

For more information about the University of California Center of Excellence on Unmanned Aircraft System Safety, visit the webpage at [http://ucop.edu/enterprise-risk-management/resources/centers-of-excellence/unmanned-aircraft-systems-safety.html](http://ucop.edu/enterprise-risk-management/resources/centers-of-excellence/unmanned-aircraft-systems-safety.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) or contact the Center at UASSafety@ucmerced.edu or (209) 201-2051.

**REGISTERING FOR THE AERONAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE EXAM FOR THE DRONE PILOT'S LICENSE**

You can register and pay for the exam here: [https://catsdoor04.com/cbt/online/UAG.jsp](https://catsdoor04.com/cbt/online/UAG.jsp%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) or [http://www.lasergrade.com/](http://www.lasergrade.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

The following new study guide walks you through all of the 11 major topics to be tested on in the new exam:

[https://www.faa.gov/regulations\_policies/handbooks\_manuals/aviation/media/remote\_pilot\_study\_guide.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/regulations_policies/handbooks_manuals/aviation/media/remote_pilot_study_guide.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**OTHER RESOURCES**

• Register your UAS ([https://registermyuas.faa.gov/](https://registermyuas.faa.gov/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

• Fly for Fun ([https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\_started/fly\_for\_fun/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_fun/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

• Fly for Work/Business ([https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\_started/fly\_for\_work\_business/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_work_business/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

• Becoming a Pilot ([https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\_started/fly\_for\_work\_business/becoming\_a\_pilot/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_work_business/becoming_a_pilot/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

• FAA Frequently Asked Questions ([https://www.faa.gov/uas/faqs/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/faqs/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

• Summary of Part 107 ([https://www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part\_107\_Summary.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part_107_Summary.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

• How to use the new Rule ([https://www.faa.gov/uas/media/AC\_107-2\_AFS-1\_Signed.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/uas/media/AC_107-2_AFS-1_Signed.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

• Complete Text of new Rule ([https://www.faa.gov/uas/media/RIN\_2120-AJ60\_Clean\_Signed.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/uas/media/RIN_2120-AJ60_Clean_Signed.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

• FAA Regulations and Policies ([https://www.faa.gov/uas/resources/uas\_regulations\_policy/](https://www.faa.gov/uas/resources/uas_regulations_policy/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

• JO 7200.23 - Air Traffic Organization Policy for Unmanned Aircraft Systems ([http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Order/FAA\_JO\_7200\_23\_2.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Order/FAA_JO_7200_23_2.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

Brandon Stark, *Director*

UC Center of Excellence on Unmanned Aircraft System Safety

[http://tinyurl.com/UC-UAS-COE](http://tinyurl.com/UC-UAS-COE%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

University of California

bstark2@ucmerced.edu

[https://www.facebook.com/UC.UAS.Safety/](https://www.facebook.com/UC.UAS.Safety/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

Contact erm@ucop.edu to be added to the UC-UAS-RESEARCH-L listserv