

Guidelines for Filming with Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) – Nov 2014

Filming with drones are becoming much more used within the TV and Film industry. Here are some basic rules that should be adhered to when considering using a UAV (or drone)*:

- Only hire a Civil Aviation Authority (C.A.A) licensed pilot/company. If they are licensed they should have a valid “Permissions for Aerial Works” certificate. A list of those companies who currently do hold a “PFAW” is listed here <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/1995/SUAOperatorsOct2014.pdf>. If the pilot is not licensed they will not be insured or have public liability cover and they are not allowed to work or provide commercial services. Unlicensed and uninsured companies may well be cheaper however they should not be used! It is also worth asking a drone pilot for an up to date copy of their insurance.
- Pilot requires permission of the landowners to take off and land the drone on their property
- Pilot cannot fly drone directly over people, roads, buildings which have not been given permission from the person and/or landowner. Drones can fly directly over or near to people who are deemed “under control” – i.e actors, presenters, extras etc. They would need to be safety briefed and aware that they are going to be filmed by a drone.
- Drones can fly up to 400ft (restricted air space starts at 500ft)
- Sub 7k rig drone cannot fly within 50 metres of a property, road, members of the public where the landowner has not given permission for filming. A drone over 7k rig must have at least 150 metres clearance of a property where permission has not been obtained
- The pilots may be required to contact air traffic control when flying near to an airport of aerodrome, so that the drone can operated safely a certain height on a specified date and time.
- Drones cannot be flown at night (or out of daylight hours) unless the company has special permissions for night time flying.
- Any qualified drone pilot should complete a site assessment before agreeing to undertake a job. They will need to check various factors including if they are in restricted airspace. The responsibility of any flight and its legalities rests with the drone operator however if breaking his/her CAA conditions, may invalidate their insurance policy.

To find out more visit the C.A.A. website – flying unmanned aircraft section:

<http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?CATID=1995>

Further guidelines available on the BBC website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/safety/resources/aztopics/unmanned-aerial-systems.html>

- Drones are more formally known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV)

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