



CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA



Q01. Can I operate my Drone without approval?

If your Drone weight is 200g or below fitted without any data retrieval tools such as camera may be operated below 150ft from Ground Level without approval from Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) if you are operating for leisure or educational purposes at a private premises with the consent of the property owner or at public places which are clearly identified for the purpose. If one or more above is not met need to obtain DGCA's approval.

Q02. Who is the competent authority empowered to grant Approvals for Drone operations in Sri Lanka?

The Director General of Civil Aviation and the approval process is handled by the Civil Aviation Authority Sri Lanka.

Q03. Do I have to register my Drone with Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL)?

If your Drone's weight is 200g or less and it is not fitted with any data capturing or data retrieval tools such as a camera no need to register with CAASL.

But irrespective the weight of your Drone, if it is fitted with any data capturing or retrieval tools such as camera, shall be registered with the CAASL.

Q04. How may I register my Drone with CAASL?

Drone Registration is a pre-requisite for the consideration of application for the Operation of Drone. Please visit our web site for Online Registration or you may download the CAA/AS/019 form. Duly filled application form (CAA/AS/019) to be forwarded to CAASL via e-mail addresses: mgrasm@caa.lk or amasm@caa.lk

You will receive Acknowledgement receipt of your Registration application via mail with the CAASL Reference Number. You may be called upon to CAASL with your Drone for an inspection.

Q05. My drone weighs less than 200g, do I have to register with CAASL?

CAASL Registration is not required as far as your drone does not carry any telemetry devices such as video cameras and still cameras on board. If it does, registering your drone at CAASL becomes mandatory.

Q06. I am an entrepreneur hoping to import drones to Sri Lanka. Do I have to register with CAASL?

Yes you do. It is a requirement that you register with CAASL. For further details visit www.caa.lk and Refer Section 6 of the Implementing Standards IS053 and submit the application form (CAA/AS/023).

Q07. I am a trader who has been selling drones. Do I have register with CAASL as per the regulations?

Yes, you should register. You are expected maintain a document of drones that you sell. It shall contain the serial number of the unit sold and the personal details of the buyer and also you shall instruct your buyer to register his/her drone with CAASL, if it falls within a category that requires a registration with CAASL. For further details please refer Section 6 of the Implementing Standards IS053.

Q08. My drone is registered at CAASL. Do I have to obtain permission for all my drone operations?

Yes you do, except if your Drone weight is 200g or below not fitted without any data retrieval tools such as camera and operating for leisure or educational purposes in your own premises or operating within somebody else's premises with a consent of the property owner or when the operation is taking place within a designated area identified for that purpose, may be operated below 150ft from Ground Level without approval from DGCA,.

For all other operations you should have to obtain prior approval from DGCA.

Registration of Drone indicates that your Drone is registered in the governmental Registry of Drones. It does not offer you with any privileges other than what is declared in Implementing Standard issued on Drone Operation in Sri Lanka.

Q09. Do I have to get security clearance from Office of Chief of Defence Staff (OCDS) for all my drone operations?

If your operation is a one which warrants approval from DGCA Sri Lanka, security clearance is a prerequisite for the issuance of approval. Therefore obtain the security clearance well in advance and preferably attach the security clearance to your application of drone operation (form CAA/AS/017) to CAASL.

Q10. Do you mean to say that the clearance received from OCDS is not an approval for carrying out my drone operation?

Yes, it is not an approval. You are required to submit that along with your application of drone operation (form CAA/AS/017) to CAASL. There is a payment to be made to CAASL to obtain approval.

Q11. I am a foreigner who is expecting to come to Sri Lanka to spend my next vacation. Can I bring my drone to Sri Lanka for my own usage?

Yes, you can subject to strict compliance of Sri Lankan customs regulations and formalities.

Once you have brought your drone to Sri Lanka you shall obtain a temporary registration (via online) to your Drone from CAASL prior to any operation. Operations of your drone shall be in compliance with IS053, the rules on drone operations in Sri Lanka. Visit www.caa.lk to download IS053. If you are intending to operate over heritage sites, Sanctuaries and such other designated sites you will be required to obtain a clearance from respective local authorities in addition to CAASL clearance.

Q12. Can I operate my drone from my roof top?

No. Operations from an elevated ground, building or an object are prohibited.

Q13. Can I operate my drone from my vehicle when it is moving, where the driver is somebody else?

No. Operations from moving vehicles are prohibited.

Q14. Can I operate my drone at night?

You will have to obtain a special approval from DGCA for that.

Q15. I am a drone operator who hires my drones for requirements of my clientele. Do I have to obtain permission from CAASL for those operations I undertake?

Yes. You are doing a commercial operation. As per the regulations obtaining permission from CAASL prior to carrying out the operation is a must.

Q16. Isn't it the responsibility of the organizers of the above event to obtain the required Approvals, why should I do it?

No, as per the Sri Lankan regulations on drones, the responsibility lies with the operator to obtain required approvals on behalf the client. Since you are the operator, you shall obtain all the required approvals/clearances prior to the operation.

Q17. I am a photographer using drones to cover wedding events and other indoor events for a fee. Do I have to obtain DGCA approval for such indoor operation?

Yes, DGCA approval is mandatory. You will have to obtain approval after paying a specified fee, prior to the operation. It is you who have to obtain the required approvals not the wedding couple.

Q18. I am a nature lover and also interested in capturing archeological sites using my drone. Can I use my drone inside a sanctuary to capture the wildlife and also do some aerial filming of archeological sites when I go to Anuradhapura?

First things first. For this operation DGCA approval is a must. You shall tender simultaneous applications to CAASL, ministry of Defence (MOD), department of Wild Life and department of archeology in order to obtain necessary clearances and permissions from those Departments. Ultimate authority for granting permission for your operation lies with DGCA Sri Lanka. You shall receive the approval from DGCA Sri Lanka prior to the operation.

Q19. Is it an offence to operate drones over a gathering of people, above and along the rail roads and highways, over heritage sights, over places of religious importance and over National parks and sanctuaries?

Yes it is. If there is a necessity of such operation, you are required to obtain permission from the respective authorities that handles the administration of such places and finally submit those clearances CAASL to obtain Approval for the operations.

Q20. My drone is registered at the CAASL. I have a buyer who is interested in the unit. Since it is registered with CAASL, do I have to inform CAASL about the transaction?

Yes you do. Once the transaction is completed, inform CAASL that you are no more the owner of the registered unit and also inform the new owner that the previous registration is no more valid and make sure to advise him/her to obtain a fresh registration certificate (registration reference no) from CAASL prior to any operation from the drone.

Q21. I am an owner of a registered drone at CAASL. I need to replace the drone camera with a new version do I have to inform the CAASL regarding this?

Yes, you do. Once you have registered the drone with CAASL, for any modification you are required to seek approval from CAASL.

Q22. My drone which is a registered unit with CAASL is not flyable anymore due to technical reasons. My technician advises me that the unit is no more repairable and it has to be taken out from the service. Do I have to inform this to CAASL?

Yes, you do. CAASL will remove the unit from Registry. That will end your liabilities for that unit.

Q23. I am foreigner who is expecting to operate my drone at various locations of Sri Lanka during my stay. Can I obtain a blanket Approval for that other than taking permission per event?

Yes you can. Determine your itinerary, obtain security clearance for the itinerary and also do not forget to obtain clearances from governing authorities of the sights that you intend to use the drone. Forward your application of drone operation (form CAA/AS/017) to CAASL with all above clearances and permission. You will receive the approval after payment of a specified fee.

Q24. I am a local operator intending to operate my drone at various locations of the island for a period of one month. Can I obtain a blanket approval for that?

Yes you can. Determine your itinerary, obtain security clearance for the itinerary and also do not forget to obtain clearances from governing authorities of the sights that you intend to use the drone. Forward your application of drone operation (form CAA/AS/017) to CAASL with above clearances. You will receive the approval after payment of a specified fee.

Q27. How can I do the necessary payments?

Once after you submit all required documents together with CAA/AS/017 form, we will notify you the amount that you have to pay to issue CAASL approval letter. You may come to this office (No.152/1, Minuwangoda Road, Katunayaka) and make the payment (before 3.00pm on working days) and collect you're the original Approval letter or else you can do the online payment (before 3.00pm on working days) (by using Visa/Master card) which is available at www.caa.lk and obtain the scanned Approval letter via email.

Q25. Do I have to inform CAASL any occurrence of accident or incident in relation to my drone?

Yes, it is mandatory. First thing that you should do is to inform the nearest police station of the occurrence. Reporting to the CAASL (Form no: CAA/AS/018 - Mandatory Occurrence Reporting (MOR)) shall be done within 48 hours of the occurrence. For further details refer Section 27 of the IS53, i.e. Drone regulations in Sri Lanka.

Q26. I am a citizen of Sri Lanka. Where can I report any suspected improper use of a drone?

You must inform this acts of improper use to the nearest police station giving details of the occurrence or contact Police emergency service via TP: 119.