

RA 1606 – Remotely Piloted Air Systems – Certified Category

Rationale

There is a requirement to determine and apply an appropriate regulatory framework to Remotely Piloted Air Systems (RPAS) to ensure they are safe to operate and are being operated safely. ► **Failure to appropriately address RPAS specific Hazards could lead to an increased Risk to Life (RtL).** ◀ This regulatory framework will be proportionate to the RPAS Category and its physical attributes¹. This Regulatory Article (RA) defines the regulatory framework for those RPAS operating in the Certified Category.

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Regulation 1606(1)

Regulatory Requirements

1606(1) The MAA Regulatory Publications (MRP) **shall** apply to RPAS in the Certified Category.

Acceptable Means of Compliance 1606(1)

Regulatory Requirements

1. Organizations² responsible for RPAS in the Certified Category **should** comply with all applicable RAs as would be ► **required for crewed** ◀ aviation.
2. Aviation Duty Holders / Accountable Managers (Military Flying) **should**:
 - a. Ensure an appropriate MAA RPAS Letter of Endorsed Categorization (LEC) is in place prior to operation of RPAS in the Certified Category.
 - b. Ensure that RPAS are operated in compliance with the LEC.
3. RPAS in the Certified Category **should** be certified in accordance with ► **the Military Air System Certification Process**^{3, 4}. ◀
4. RPAS operating in the Certified Category **should** be registered on the UK Military Aircraft Register⁵.

Guidance Material 1606(1)

Regulatory Requirements

5. The operation of RPAS in the Certified Category presents RtL similar to that of ► **crewed** ◀ aviation. Therefore, excepting the Categorization and LEC requirements of RA 1600⁶, RPAS in the Certified Category are subject to the same regulatory regime as ► **crewed** ◀ aviation.
6. **Ageing Air System Audit.** RPAS with an anticipated service life of less than 6 years are exempt from the requirements of an Ageing Air System Audit ► **7** ◀.

¹ For definitions of RPAS Categories, RPAS sub-categories, and RPAS physical attributes (eg Sub 250 g, Sub 4 kg etc), refer to RA 1600 – Remotely Piloted Air Systems.

² ie those organizations responsible for design, Maintenance, Airworthiness, operation.

³ Refer to RA 5810 – Military Type Certificate (MRP Part 21 Subpart B).

⁴ ► **Refer to RA 5820 – Changes to Type Design.** ◀

⁵ Refer to RA 1161 – Military Registration of Air Systems Operating within the Defence Air Environment.

⁶ Refer to RA 1600 – Remotely Piloted Air Systems.

⁷ ► **Refer to RA 5723 – Ageing Air System Audit.** ◀

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