European Union Aviation Safety Agency

Training requirements in the 'open' category

Who issues the remote pilot competency certificate for the 'open' category and how long is it valid for?

Answer

For the ‘open’ category or standard scenarios, the National Aviation Authority is responsible for issuing the certificates. A certificate for Remote Pilot competency **is valid for 5 years**. If the revalidation is conducted before the certificate expires, the remote pilot may attend a seminar provided by the National Aviation Authority or by an entity recognised by it, otherwise competencies need to be re-demonstrated.

Regulatory reference: DRONE.OPEN.070 (1) of EU regulation 2019/947.

Last updated:
10/10/2020

Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/116458

Will the competency certificate for the 'open' category be recognised throughout Europe?

Answer

Yes, training conducted in one EASA member state will be recognised in all others.

Last updated:
13/10/2020

Link:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/116459

Which training I need to fly my drone in the open category?

Answer

The type of training required depends on the type of drone you use.

A transitional period **until December 31, 2023** applies, and each EASA Member State may define the appropriate remote pilot training requirements according to **the following table**:

WHAT TYPE OF DRONE CAN I FLY?

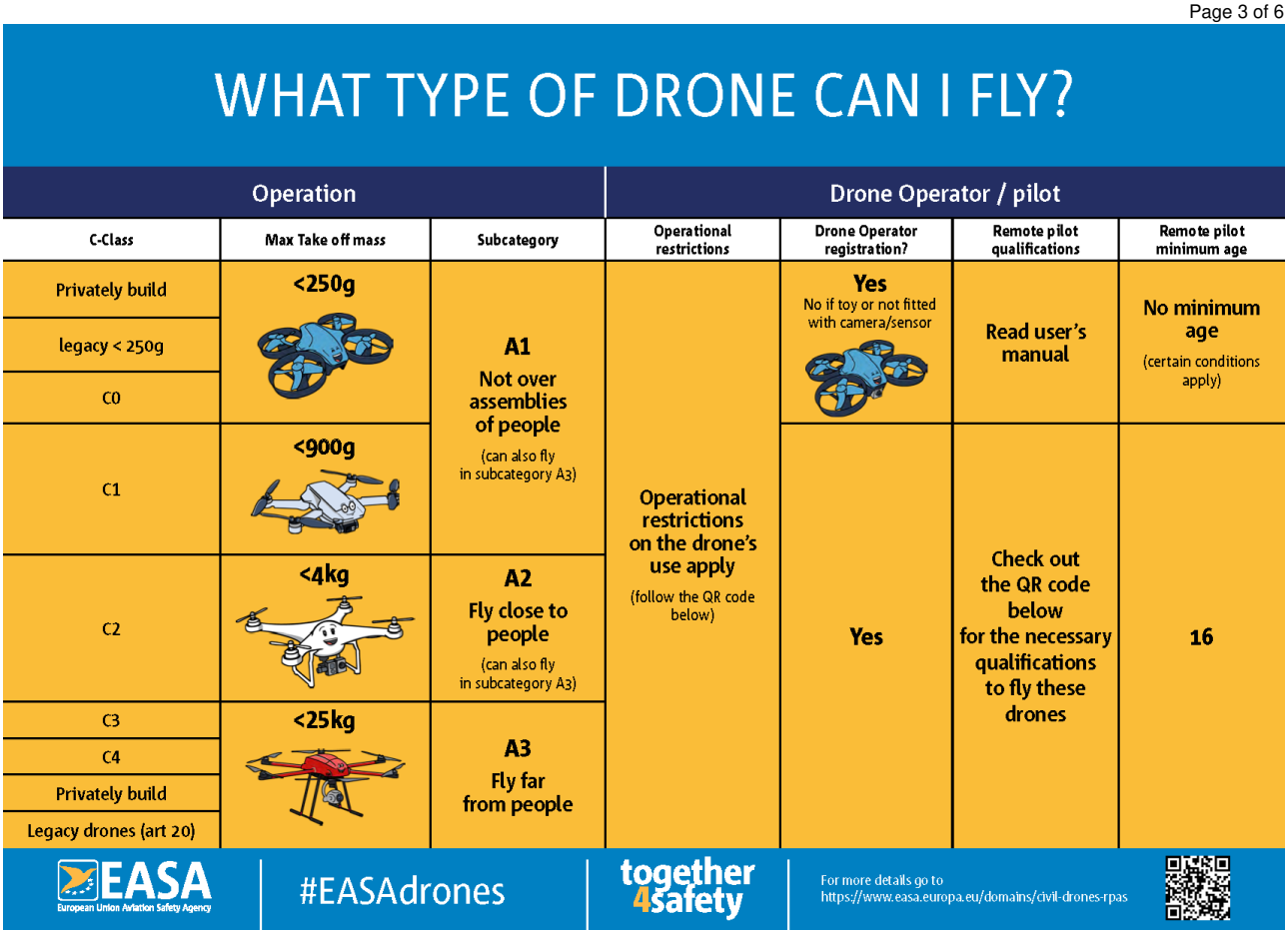
Applicable until 01 of January 2014

Operation		Drone Operator / pilot			
Max Take off mass	Subcategory	Operational restrictions	Drone Operator registration?	Remote pilot qualifications	Remote pilot minimum age
<250g 	A1 Not over assemblies of people (can also fly in subcategory A3)	Operational restrictions on the drone's use apply (follow the QR code below)	Yes No if toy or not fitted with camera/sensor 	Read user's manual	No minimum age (certain conditions apply)
<500g 			Yes	Check out the QR code below for the necessary qualifications to fly these drones	16
<2kg 	A2 Fly close to people (can also fly in subcategory A3)				
<25kg 	A3 Fly far from people				

EASA European Union Aviation Safety Agency | #EASAdrones | together 4safety | For more details go to https://www.easa.europa.eu/domains/civil-drones-rpas

Remote pilot training as from 1 January 2024

The training requirements applicable as from January 1, 2024 are described below. However, most of the EASA Member States already offer the training listed below. In this way, you can already today receive a certificate according to the EU regulation. So, if you receive from an NAA of an EASA Member State one of the certificate of training with the EASA logo as shown below, you may already use it to operate your drone in the 'open' category in all EASA Member States. The training and exams can be conducted in an EASA Member State of your choice.



Please pay attention: we are made aware that some illegal websites are selling fake certificates of training. Please trust only the providers of training and exams that are listed in a NAA website!

How to operate drones in the open category from 01/01/2024 (These provisions already apply to drones with C-class marks)

- Privately built and drones placed on the market before 01/01/2024 (under 250 gramm)

Subcategory	A1 (can also fly in subcategory A3)
Operational restrictions	◦ May fly over uninvolved people (should be avoided when possible) ◦ No flight over assemblies of people
Drone operator registration	No, unless camera / sensor on board **and** a drone is not a toy
Remote pilot competence	No training required
Remote pilot minimum age	No minimum age

- C0 (under 250 gramm)

Subcategory	A1 (can also fly in subcategory A3)
Operational restrictions	◦ No flight over assemblies of people; ◦ Maintain flight altitude below 120m above ground level.
Drone operator registration	No, unless camera / sensor on board **and** a drone is not a toy
Remote pilot competence	Read carefully the user manual
Remote pilot minimum age	16*, no minimum age if drone is a toy

- C1 (under 900 gramm)

Subcategory	A1 (can also fly in subcategory A3)
Operational restrictions	◦ No flight expected over uninvolved people (if it happens, overflight should be minimised); ◦ No flight over assemblies of people; ◦ Maintain flight altitude below 120m above ground level.
Drone operator registration	Yes
Remote pilot competence	◦ Read carefully the user manual ◦ Obtain a 'Proof of completion for online training' for A1/A3 'open' subcategory by: ▪ Completing the online training ▪ Passing the online theoretical exam
Remote pilot minimum age	16*

- C2 (under 4 kg)

Subcategory	A2 (can also fly in subcategory A3)
Operational restrictions	◦ Must not overfly uninvolved people; ◦ Maintain a horizontal distance of 30 m from uninvolved people (can be reduced to 5 m if the low-speed function is activated); ◦ Maintain flight altitude below 120m above ground level.
Drone operator registration	Yes
Remote pilot competence	◦ Read carefully the user manual ◦ Obtain a 'Remote pilot certificate of competency' for A2 'open' subcategory by: ▪ Having a 'Proof of completion for online training' for A1/A3 'open' subcategory ▪ Conducting and declare a practical self- training ▪ Passing an additional theoretical exam at the NAA or proctored online
Remote pilot minimum age	16*

- C3 (under 25 kg)

Subcategory	A3
Operational restrictions	◦ Must not overfly uninvolved people; ◦ Maintain a horizontal distance of 150 m from uninvolved people and urban areas; ◦ Maintain flight altitude below 120m above ground level.
Drone operator registration	Yes
Remote pilot competence	◦ Read carefully the user manual ◦ Obtain a 'Proof of completion for online training' for A1/A3 'open' subcategory by: ▪ Completing the online training ▪ Passing the online theoretical exam

Remote pilot minimum age	16*

- C4 (under 25 kg)

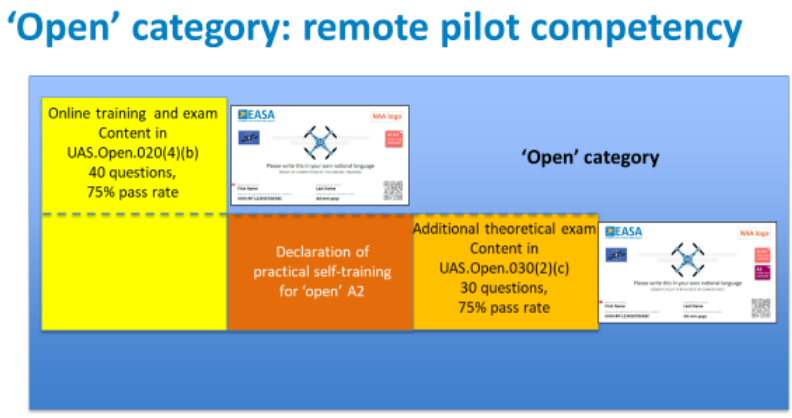
Subcategory	A3
Operational restrictions	◦ Must not overfly uninvolved people; ◦ Maintain a horizontal distance of 150 m from uninvolved people and urban areas; ◦ Maintain flight altitude below 120m above ground level.
Drone operator registration	Yes
Remote pilot competence	◦ Read carefully the user manual ◦ Obtain a 'Proof of completion for online training' for A1/A3 'open' subcategory by: ▪ Completing the online training ▪ Passing the online theoretical exam
Remote pilot minimum age	16*

- Privately built and drones placed on the market before 01/01/2024 (under 25 kg)

Subcategory	A3
Operational restrictions	◦ Must not overfly uninvolved people; ◦ Maintain a horizontal distance of 150 m from uninvolved people and urban areas; ◦ Maintain flight altitude below 120m above ground level.
Drone operator registration	Yes
Remote pilot competence	◦ Read carefully the user manual ◦ Obtain a 'Proof of completion for online training' for A1/A3 'open' subcategory by: ▪ Completing the online training ▪ Passing the online theoretical exam
Remote pilot minimum age	16*

Note that an NAA may designate an entity that may conduct the online training and provide the online exam or the exam for the A2 subcategory. Please refer to the NAA's website for additional information.

Summary



Last updated:

21/02/2024

Link:

https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/116457