



European Union Aviation Safety Agency

FAQ n.142985

FAQs:

Higher Airspace Operations (HAO)

Question:

Why is this project being conducted?

Answer:

EASA is developing draft regulations for Higher Airspace Operations (HAO) in response to the emergence of new high-altitude and near-space activities such as high-altitude platforms, pseudo-satellites, and novel aerospace vehicles that are not adequately covered by existing regulatory frameworks. These operations raise new safety, security, environmental, and legal challenges and, if left unaddressed, could lead to regulatory gaps or fragmented national approaches across Europe. To ensure legal clarity, harmonised oversight, and a proportionate safety-based framework that supports innovation while protecting the public interest, the European Commission formally mandated EASA in November 2024 to develop draft regulations for Higher Airspace Operations in Europe.

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08/01/2026

Link:

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/faq/142985>