

FAQs:

Requirements under the 'open' category, Open category, Drones (UAS), Regulations

Question:

What are the requirements under the subcategories of the 'open' category?

Answer:

According to the class identification label of the drone or the weight, in the case of privately built drones, they can be operated in different conditions as described below:

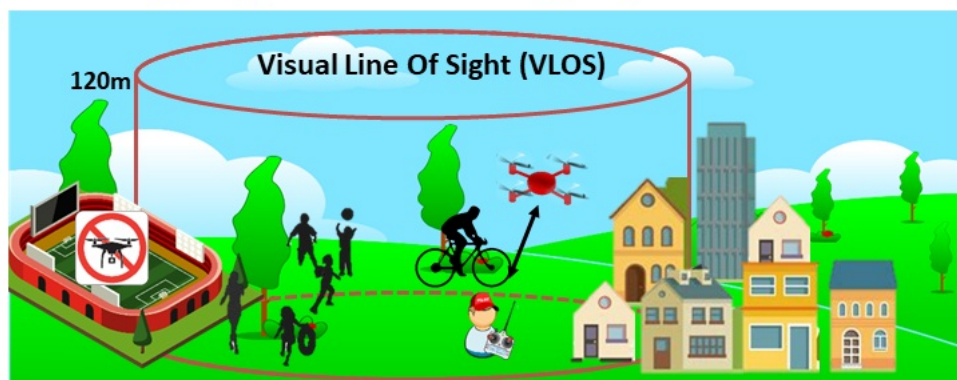
Drones bearing a CE class 0 mark or that are privately built and weigh up to 250 g can fly in subcategory A1, which means almost everywhere, except over assemblies of people, or areas that the state has forbidden by imposing a restriction on the flight of drones (please consult the website of your National Aviation Authority. See <https://www.easa.europa.eu/domains/civil-drones/naa>).

Open category - Subcategory A1



Drones bearing a class identification label 1 can also be operated in subcategory A1 with the difference that you are required to minimise flying over uninvolved people.

Open category - Subcategory A1



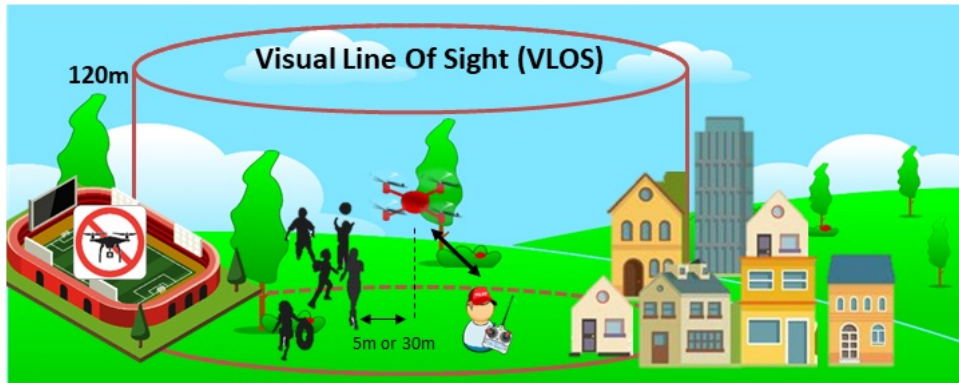
- **No fly over assembly of people**
- reasonably expect that no uninvolved person is overflown. In case of unexpected overfly over uninvolved persons, the remote pilot shall reduce as much as possible the time during which the unmanned aircraft overflies those persons

Drones bearing a class identification label 2 can be operated in subcategory A2, which means in urban environments, however, you are required to keep a safe distance from any uninvolved people. As a rule, this minimum distance should be equal to the height at which the drone is flying (e.g. if you are flying at a height of 30 m, make sure that the closest uninvolved person is at least 30 m from the position where the drone would vertically fall in the event of an incident). In any case, this distance must never be less than 5 m. In addition, you can also fly in the conditions defined for subcategory A3. Finally, you must avoid flying in areas that the state has forbidden by imposing a restriction on the flight of drones.

(Please consult the website of your National Aviation Authority for additional information.

See <https://www.easa.europa.eu/domains/civil-drones/naa>).

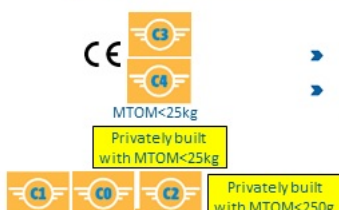
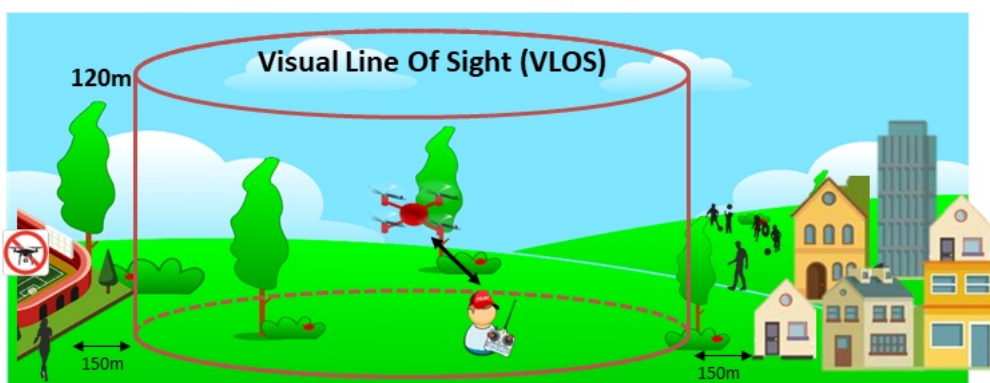
Open category - Subcategory A2



- **No fly over uninvolved people**
- UAS at a horizontal distance of at least 30 metres from uninvolved persons, or up to a of 5 metres when low speed mode function is activated

Drones bearing a class identification label 3 or 4 , or that are privately built and weigh up to 25 kg, can be operated in subcategory A3. That means that they can never be operated in urban environments that you need to keep the drone at least 150 m from residential, commercial or industrial areas, and to only operate in areas where no uninvolved people are present in the range where the drone can be operated. In any case, you must avoid flying in areas that the state has forbidden by imposing a restriction on the flight of drones (please consult the website of your National Aviation Authority for additional information, see <https://www.easa.europa.eu/domains/civil-drones/naa>)

Open category - Subcategory A3



- **No fly over uninvolved people**
- conducted in an area where the remote pilot reasonably expects that no uninvolved person will be endangered within the range where the unmanned aircraft is flown during the entire time of the UAS operation

For the full image of requirements and limitations applicable to different classes of drones and conducted operations, please refer to the table below:

UAS		Operation		Drone Operator/pilot		
Class	MTOM	Subcategory	Operational restrictions	Drone Operator registration	Remote pilot competence	Remote pilot minimum age
Privately built	< 250 g	A1 (can also fly in subcategory A3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may fly over uninvolved people (should be avoided when possible) - no fly over assemblies of people 	No, unless camera / sensor on board and a drone is not a toy	- no training needed	No minimum age
0					- read user's manual	16*, no minimum age if drone is a toy
Legacy drones (art. 20)						16*
1	< 900 g		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No expected fly over uninvolved people (if happens, should be reduced) - no fly over assemblies of people 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - read user's manual - complete online training - pass online theoretical exam 	16*
2	< 4 kg	A2 (can also fly in subcategory A3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no fly over uninvolved people - keep horizontal distance of 30 m from uninvolved people (it can be reduced to 5 m if low speed function is activated) 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - read user's manual - complete online training - pass online theoretical exam - conduct and declare a self-practical training - pass a written exam at the CAA (or at recognized entity) 	16*
3	< 25 kg	A3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fly away from people - fly outside of urban area (150 m distance) 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - read user's manual - complete online training - pass online theoretical exam 	16*
4						
Privately built Legacy drones (art. 20)						

* The minimum age can be lowered by the state to 12, in which case, this new threshold will be valid only in that state.

Last updated:

10/10/2020

Link:

<https://www.easa.europa.eu/faq/116452>