

# CAA Part 101 Drone Rules Quick Reference Guide

## Property & Persons Permission

Rule 101.207

You legally need to have permission from the owner or occupier of each and every piece of property and persons you want to fly your drone directly above - in advance.

Some councils allow drone use above their public areas with additional restrictions added, or have designated drone flight areas. [See Council Policy list here](#)

Most roads, motorways and rail corridors are forbidden to be overflowed without express consent, as well as large areas of Department of Conservation managed land.

## Check Airspace

Rule 101.12

Refer to the [Airshare online map](#) and official Visual Navigation Charts to determine the airspace type for where you wish to fly. [Purchase 2020-2021 VNC's here](#)

If within a Control Zone, request permission to fly via an [Airshare request](#) in advance and then follow up with a phone call to the tower on the day for final authorisation to fly.

Check [current NOTAM's](#) and the [AIP Supplement](#) booklet to ensure there is no temporary restricted airspace. (These are not always shown on Airshare or printed on the VNC's!)

## < 4KM of an uncontrolled airfield/heliport

Rule 101.205

You need to hold a current RPAS Pilot Certificate issued by a Part 141 training organisation or Part 61/149 Pilot Licence to legally be eligible to request to do this. *(Unless flying shielded)*

You must request permission from the aerodrome operator *(Unless flying shielded)*. Contact details shown on Airshare and in [AIP Aerodrome Charts](#) under 'Operational Data'.

You need to be accompanied by a spotter whilst flying. *(Unless flying shielded)*.

## Shielded Operations

Rule 101.11, 101.205c, 101.211

Flying shielded allows for flights within control zones without the permission of ATC and at night.

The shield can be either a natural or manmade structure. Drone flight is considered shielded if flying horizontally within 100 metres of, and not above the top of said structure.

If flying within 4km of an airfield, there must also be a wide and solid barrier suitable for stopping the drone in the event of a fly-away. Eg building or tall hedge.

## Not above 400ft above the ground

Rule 101.207

You must always remain below a maximum height of 400 feet (120 meters) above the ground or water at all times.

The drones height that is shown on the controller is relative to the position it was powered on. If you fly from a hill top, you must take the difference in surface elevation into account.

Manned aircraft normally fly no lower than 1000 feet AGL over towns and 500 feet AGL over rural areas, although often descend lower for many legitimate reasons. **You must always look out for and give way to manned aircraft.**

## Always keep the drone within sight

Rule 101.209

This means not flying the drone so far away that you cannot see it with the naked eye. A good rule of thumb is approximately 300 metres depending on time of day, sky conditions and your own vision strength.

If you can't see your drone, you are required to have a spotter with you who has eyes on the it instead. They must be trained, competent, and in direct communication with you to inform you of any hazards they might see.

Never fly above clouds, or behind other objects that will prevent you from seeing the sky around your drone for any incoming hazards such as birds, aircraft or inclement weather. All manned aircraft have Right of Way over your drone.