



**SMALL UAV
COALITION**

*A Partnership for
Safety & Innovation*

NEWS RELEASE

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Coalition Applauds Final Small UAS Rule Welcomes Initial Regulatory Framework for Commercial UAS

WASHINGTON, DC – June 21, 2016 – Today, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released the first operational rules for routine commercial use of small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly referred to as Part 107. The Small UAV Coalition commends the FAA for finalizing the rulemaking, which will expand opportunities for businesses to realize the immense potential of UAS to create efficiencies and maximize the full potential of drone systems.

In particular, the Coalition is pleased the FAA will no longer require UAS pilots to receive manned aircraft flying experience to operate a small UAS, and instead requires completion of an online course for those who hold pilot certificates or an aeronautical knowledge test for those who do not. This reform alone, which was strongly urged by the Coalition, will save U.S. companies millions of dollars. The Coalition is also pleased that the rule will permit the transportation of property for compensation or hire, limited at the present time to intrastate operations.

The commercial UAS industry, including the Small UAV Coalition, has long advocated for implementation of a regulatory framework under which the United States can fully realize the vast economic potential of small UAS in a safe and efficient manner. The Coalition conveyed its response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in April 2015 [comments](#) and in subsequent meetings with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), the division of the White House Office of Management and Budget tasked with reviewing significant proposed federal rules.

With the Final Rule in place, the FAA expects to be able to reduce its commitment of resources to the Section 333 exemption process, which will allow the FAA, working in partnership with industry, to devote more of its resources to further development of the regulatory framework that will pave the way towards critical components of commercial UAS operations across every sector of the economy, including beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) operations, carriage of property, operations at night, and UAS traffic management (UTM), subjects not addressed in the final rule. In particular, industry is also looking forward to an upcoming proposed rule on operations over people.

Many UAS operators will be able to achieve their business objectives within the parameters of the final rule. The Coalition pleased that the FAA has included a broad waiver provision in the final rule, which permits waivers from many of the operational limitations, consistent with recommendations the Coalition submitted to the FAA. Further, for those operators who seek

relief outside of the rule and the waiver provision, the Coalition is pleased that the FAA intends to continue to use the Section 333 process to authorize a broader set of operations upon an appropriate risk-based safety determination.

The Coalition also reiterates its strong support for legislative direction contained in both House and Senate bills to reauthorize the FAA that would create a pathway for small UAS to deliver goods and implement a UTM system. These bills would also promote BVLOS testing, broaden UAS access to commercial mobile services and unlicensed spectrum, and create a micro UAS classification to provide for commercial operation of the smallest category of UAS.

The Coalition looks forward to continuing to work with the FAA, Congress, and industry partners in support of world-leading, safe, and progressive regulation that builds the framework for robust commercial UAS operations, including flights over people and beyond the visual line of sight, in order to keep pace with the rapidly advancing drone industry. The FAA must move quickly to assure that the U.S. does not fall behind amid exponential growth of the UAS industry across the globe.

For more information on the Small UAV Coalition, please visit www.smalluavcoalition.org, contact press@smalluavcoalition.org, or follow [@smallUAVs](https://twitter.com/smallUAVs) on Twitter.

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