

# Unlocking the Skies: A Comprehensive Guide to AC 107-2A Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems

The advent of small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS), commonly known as drones, has revolutionized various industries and applications. To ensure the safe and responsible operation of these aerial vehicles, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has issued AC 107-2A, an advisory circular that provides comprehensive guidance for sUAS operations.



## AC 107-2A Small Unmanned Aircraft System (sUAS) Advisory Circular: (Remote / Drone Pilot Ops Guide)

by Fred W. Frailey

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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This article delves into the key elements of AC 107-2A, providing a comprehensive overview for pilots, operators, and anyone interested in the safe and legal operation of sUAS. By understanding the regulations and guidelines outlined in this advisory circular, you can empower yourself with the knowledge to navigate the skies responsibly.

## Scope and Applicability of AC 107-2A

AC 107-2A applies to sUAS operations conducted under Part 107 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR). These regulations govern the commercial use of sUAS for various purposes, including photography, videography, surveying, and inspections.

The advisory circular provides guidance on:

- sUAS design and performance requirements
- Pilot certification and qualifications
- Operational procedures and limitations
- Airspace regulations and authorization
- Safety risk management

## **Key Requirements and Guidelines**

AC 107-2A outlines a comprehensive set of requirements and guidelines for sUAS operations, including:

### **Weight and Performance**

sUAS must comply with specific weight and performance requirements to ensure safe and controlled operation. The maximum takeoff weight for sUAS operated under Part 107 is 55 pounds (25 kilograms).

### **Pilot Certification**

Pilots operating sUAS under Part 107 must hold a Remote Pilot Certificate with a Small UAS Rating. To obtain this certification, individuals must pass an FAA-approved knowledge test and demonstrate practical flying skills.

## **Operational Procedures**

AC 107-2A establishes clear operational procedures for sUAS flights, including:

- Maintaining visual line of sight (VLOS) with the aircraft
- Operating within authorized airspace and at altitudes below 400 feet (122 meters)
- Avoiding hazardous weather conditions and populated areas
- Using appropriate safety equipment and procedures

## **Airspace Regulations**

sUAS operators must be aware of airspace regulations and obtain necessary authorizations for operating in controlled airspace. AC 107-2A provides detailed guidance on airspace classification, airspace restrictions, and procedures for obtaining airspace authorizations.

## **Safety Risk Management**

AC 107-2A emphasizes the importance of safety risk management in sUAS operations. Operators must conduct thorough risk assessments to identify potential hazards and mitigate risks. This includes evaluating factors such as weather conditions, terrain, and the presence of other aircraft or obstacles.

## **Benefits of AC 107-2A Compliance**

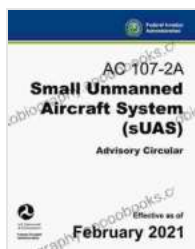
Compliance with AC 107-2A offers numerous benefits, including:

- Ensuring the safe and legal operation of sUAS

- Reducing risks and minimizing the potential for accidents
- Fostering public confidence in the responsible use of sUAS
- Supporting the growth and innovation of the sUAS industry

AC 107-2A is a comprehensive advisory circular that provides essential guidance for the safe and responsible operation of sUAS under Part 107 of the FAR. By understanding and adhering to the requirements and guidelines outlined in this circular, sUAS operators can contribute to the advancement of the industry while maintaining the highest standards of safety and compliance.

As the world of sUAS continues to evolve, it is imperative that operators stay informed and adapt to changing regulations and best practices. AC 107-2A serves as a valuable resource for all stakeholders in the sUAS ecosystem, enabling them to unlock the full potential of these aerial vehicles while ensuring the safety of the skies.



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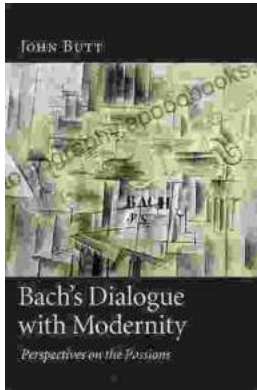
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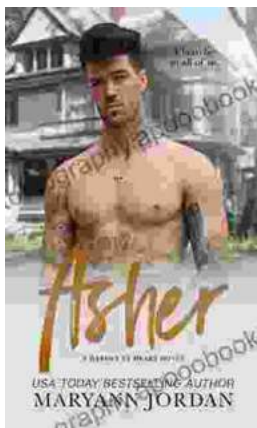
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