



## Federal Aviation Administration

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### Memorandum

Date: MAY 10 2019

To: Distribution

From: *Michelle Muddle*  
Aaron Barnett, Director, Operations-Headquarters, AJT-2

Subject: Mandatory Briefing Item: Pre-Duty Brief – Operational Personnel Sec 349 sUAS Implementation, due May 16, 2019

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Due to changes in the law mandated by the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act, all hobbyist or recreational Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operators are required to have authorization from Air Traffic to fly in controlled airspace. This new law puts restrictions in place that limit all recreational operations to less than 400 feet in uncontrolled airspace and requires approval for any operation in controlled airspace. This memo and attached pre-duty brief serves as interim guidance for the implementation of this new law.

Previously, recreational flyers could communicate with the tower or controlling facility and notify of "intent to fly." The language in the previous law was vague and did not allow for, or require, an intervention or approval from air traffic controllers. This new law will remove local air traffic controller involvement with recreational UAS operators and reduce distractions and phone calls while improving the safety of the National Airspace System (NAS).

Air Traffic Facilities should not authorize or approve any recreational flight. The purpose of this implementation plan is to diminish the need for calls to the towers from any recreational operator requesting to fly in controlled airspace. The authorization and restrictions for recreational UAS operators will be a National Authorization for fixed sites in controlled airspace as detailed below:

1. Recreational UAS operators will be authorized to fly in controlled airspace at fixed sites that will be listed via multiple venues from Federal Register Notice (FRN), Advisory Circular (AC) and FAA Office of Communications (AOC) public releases.
2. Approximately 350 Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) fixed sites are located in controlled airspace, but less than 200 are listed for recreational UAS use.
3. These sites will be more than 2 miles from a runway surface and be required to operate in accordance with altitudes specified in Unmanned Aircraft Systems Facility Map's (UASFM).

4. The authorizations will be in the form of a National Authorization with national restrictions that have been approved by Law, DOT and FAA HQ. Therefore, air traffic controller personnel or support staff should not make any phone calls or authorizations.

This is a significant change to how we have previously conducted business. Please be understanding when recreational UAS operators call; use the language in the attached pre-duty brief and refer them to [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas) for guidance on how and where to operate.

NOTE: In the summer, Low Altitude Authorization Notification Capability (LAANC) will accept and authorize recreational requests in UASFM values, but will not accept or authorize anything for altitudes higher than 400 feet or outside the UASFM.

Refer all Recreational Flyer or general inquiries to [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas).

**Action/Deadline:**

Air Traffic Managers must ensure all operational personnel are briefed on the attached Power Point no later than May 16 as this briefing is a pre-duty requirement.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Henry Rigol, at [henry.rigol@faa.gov](mailto:henry.rigol@faa.gov) or (202) 267-8185, or William Stanton at [william.h.stanton@faa.gov](mailto:william.h.stanton@faa.gov) or (202) 267-4564, Air Traffic Services, Operational Integration, AJT-3.

Attachment

Power Point Presentation

**Distribution:**

Calvin Rohan, Acting Director, Air Traffic Operations, Eastern Service Area, AJT-EN/ES  
Tony Mello, Director, Air Traffic Operations, Central Service Area, AJT-CN/CS  
Jeff Stewart, Acting Director, Air Traffic Operations, Western Service Area, AJT-WN/WS

## **FAA Reauthorization Bill Recreational Flyers**

### **OLD LAW (2012 FAA Bill – Section 336)**

- Recreational/Hobbyist/Modeler required to notify tower if flying within 5 miles of the airport.
- ATC could not approve operation – only accept notification.
- ATC could deny operation for safety reasons.

# FAA Reauthorization Bill

## Recreational Flyers

### NEW LAW (2018 FAA Bill – Section 349)

- Hobbyist UAS now called Limited Recreational Flyers.
- FAA Air Traffic facilities will no longer accept requests for recreational flyers to operate controlled airspace.
- Controlled Airspace Access:
  - **At fixed sites** (commonly referred to as flying fields) Have an established agreement with the FAA
  - Site locations published at <http://uas-aa.opendata.arcgis.com/>
  - Operations **only** authorized up to the **altitudes indicated on the UAS facility map (UASFM)**

# FAA Reauthorization Bill

## Recreational Flyers

### Controlled Airspace Access Continued

- Operations only between sunrise and sunset local time
- Site must be made known to the facility
- Impacted air traffic control facility may disapprove, terminate, restrict, or delay UAS flight operations covered by this authorization at any time
- This authorization will be **effective** on 17 May 2019

## ATC Facility Instructions

What do I do if I get a call from a **RECREATIONALIST, HOBBYIST, OR MODELER** wanting to fly in my airspace?

- Inform the caller that due to a recent change in the law, authorization is required to fly in controlled airspace and will no longer be given by ATC over the phone. The authorization can be found at [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas).
- Inform the caller that they can find areas where they are allowed to fly by visiting [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas).
- Refer any additional questions from sUAS operator to the Advisory Circular 91-57B or [www.faa.gov/uas](http://www.faa.gov/uas).

**AGAIN – STARTING MAY 17TH - NO MORE HOBBYIST/MODELER NOTIFICATION CALLS TO THE TOWER**

## How will Recreational Users Know About These New Procedures?

Recreational Flyers can find information on these changes and operating procedures under the new law:

- Advisory Circular 91-57B