



United States Department of the Interior Office of Aviation Services Information Bulletin

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Distribution: All DOI Employees

Subject: Unauthorized purchases and use of small unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), commonly referred to as “drones”.

Information:

This Information Bulletin (IB) re-iterates DOI policy related to the acquisition and use of UAS

UAS technology has rapidly increased over the last several years. This technology offers users, with little or no training, the ability to fly an aircraft for the purposes of collecting aerial imagery. DOI has an active UAS program that has been approved by the FAA. However we are still finding situations where Departmental employees have purchased off-the-shelf hobby equipment with the intent of using those aircraft to conduct DOI missions. This IB serves as reminder that all aircraft purchases and use, regardless of the size and type of aircraft, must be approved by the aviation leadership within the Bureau, and by OAS. This includes all types and sizes of UAS.

It is important to remind our employees that UAS, are considered “aircraft” by the FAA and DOI and are subject to both FAA and DOI regulations when it comes to their operation. All UAS, and all UAS operators must be approved by OAS prior to flying. Procedures are in place to provide standardized training for DOI operators. Approved DOI UAS operators have the necessary knowledge to operate within the national airspace safely and efficiently. Unapproved use of hobby grade equipment threatens the legitimate use of UAS across the department. With the holiday season upon us, it is expected that many hobby UAS will be given as gifts. DOI employees are reminded that their personal UAS or any unapproved UAS may not be used to conduct departmental missions. Employees interested in using UAS to accomplish their missions should work with their Local/Regional/National aviation managers to ensure they are compliance with applicable policy. Please report any unauthorized purchases to the DOI UAS Fleet Manager via email to steven.ramaekers@ios.doi.gov or via SAFECOM.gov

Relevant Links

OPM-11 DOI Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems
<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.opengov.ibmcloud.com/files/uploads/OPM-11.pdf>

Contact for Bureau Aviation Management
https://www.doi.gov/aviation/eab/nam_members

Additional information about the DOI UAS program can be found here
<https://www.doi.gov/aviation/uas>

Examples of Recent Unauthorized Purchases



Signed: _____
UAS Program Manager
DOI, Office of Aviation Services