



Getting what you need to fly legally

How to make sure you have what you need to get started flying legally.

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ID and registration requirements

There are two IDs you may need before flying drones or model aircraft outdoors in the UK:

- › Flyer ID, which shows you've passed the basic competence test
- › Operator ID, which must be labelled on your drone or model aircraft

You may need to have both.

<p>Flyer Must have a Flyer ID</p> 	<p>Operator Must have an Operator ID</p> 
<p>Responsible for flying safely and legally</p>	<p>Responsible for the drone or model aircraft and who they allow to fly it</p>

Type of ID needed

The IDs you need depend on the weight of your drone or model aircraft and whether it has a camera.

You must get a Flyer ID if you want to fly a drone or model aircraft that weighs 100g or above.

You must get an Operator ID if you own or are responsible for a drone or model aircraft that:

- › weighs 250g or above
- › weighs 100g or above and has a camera

You don't need a Flyer ID or Operator ID to fly a drone or model aircraft that weighs less than 100g.

Remember, even if you do not need to register, you must still follow the applicable rules summarised in this Drone and Model Aircraft Code when you fly.



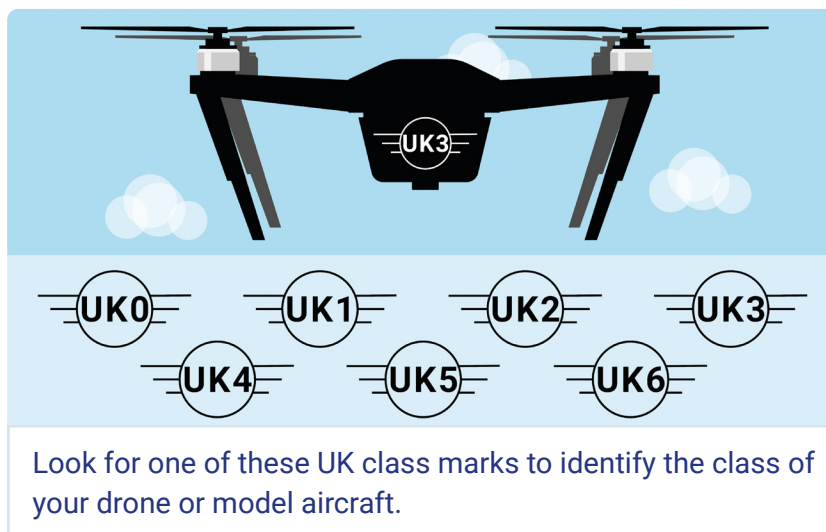
Registration requirements

Weight of drone or model aircraft	Class	Flyer ID	Operator ID
250g to less than 25kg	UK1, UK2, UK3, UK4	Required	Required
100g to less than 250g; with a camera	UK0 with a camera	Required	Required
100g to less than 250g; without a camera	UK0 without a camera	Required	Optional
Less than 100g	Not applicable	Recommended	Optional

Class marks

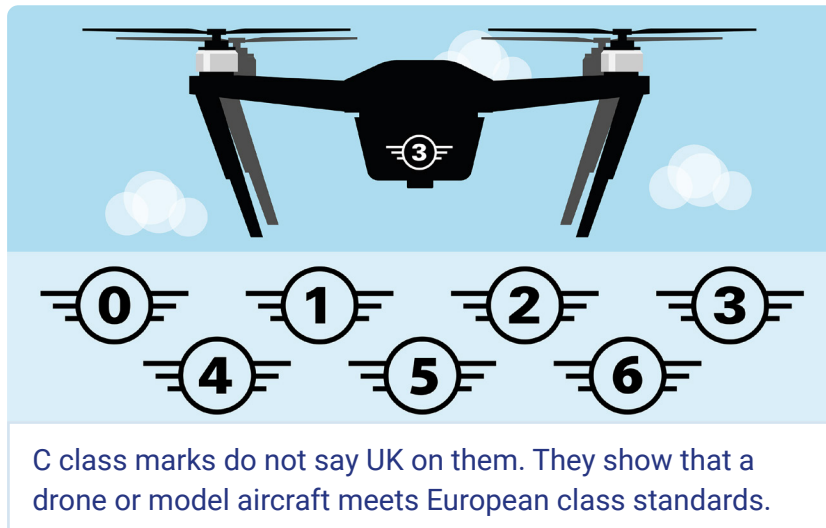
While legacy drone or model aircraft models can continue to be sold, any new models placed on the market from 1 January 2026 must have a UK class mark, from UK0 class to UK6 class.

If you bought your drone or model aircraft before 1 January 2026, it's unlikely to have a UK class mark. You can still fly your drone or model aircraft by following the rules in this Drone Code that apply to you based on the weight of your aircraft.





If your drone or model aircraft has a C class mark on it, the manufacturer has declared that it meets the European class standards. You can fly a C class drone as if it is the corresponding UK class drone until 31 December 2027. For example, you can fly a C1 class drone as if it is a UK1 class drone.



This Drone Code does not cover flying C5/UK5 or C6/UK6 class drones. You must get authorisation from the CAA if you want to do more advanced flying.

Flyer ID

You must pass the CAA's official theory test to get a Flyer ID before flying a drone or model aircraft covered by the regulations. We recommend carrying a copy of your Flyer ID whenever you fly.

You're responsible for flying safely and legally whenever you fly.

Operator ID

The operator is the person responsible for managing a drone or model aircraft. This means they're responsible for things like maintaining it and ensuring any remote pilot who flies it holds the necessary level of competence.

You must be 18 or over to get an Operator ID.



The operator is usually the person or organisation that owns the drone or model aircraft, but not always. For example, if you're younger than 18 and you own a drone or model aircraft, you must ask your parent or guardian to register for an Operator ID. You'll still be able to fly as long as you have a Flyer ID.

Categories of drone and model aircraft operations

The types of flying you do with your drone or model aircraft are known as operations.

There are different categories of operations. The categories affect things like where you can fly, and how close to people and crowds you can fly.

Category	Type of flying
Open Category	Low-risk, simple flying
Specific Category	Moderate-risk, complex flying
Certified Category	High-risk, complex flying



Flying in the Open category

The Open Category has three sub-categories.

Each sub-category sets out the weight or class of drone or model aircraft you can fly and the distance you must keep from people.

Open sub-category requirements and distances

Sub-category	Weight or class of drone or model aircraft you can fly	Distance from people and places
Over People (A1)	Less than 250g or C0 or UK0 or UK1 class. From 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2027, you can also fly a C1 class drone or model aircraft.	You can fly closer to people than 50m, including people who are not involved in what you're doing. You can fly over people, including people who are not involved in what you're doing.
Near People (A2)	UK2 class. Until 31 December 2027, you can also fly a C2 class drone or model aircraft. Less than 2kg and not UK2 or C2 class.	You must not fly within 30m of people unless they're involved in what you are doing, or you fly in low speed mode. If you fly in low speed mode, you can reduce this distance to 5m from people. You must not fly over people who are not involved in what you're doing. You must not fly within 50m of uninvolved people. You must not fly over people who are not involved in what you're doing.
Far from People (A3)	UK2, UK3 or UK4 class. UAS that is privately built and less than 25kg. UAS that was placed on the market before 1 January 2026 and less than 25kg. Until 31 December 2027, you can also fly a C2, C3 or C4 class drone or model aircraft.	You must not fly within 50m of uninvolved people. You must not fly over people who are not involved in what you're doing. You must not fly within 150m of residential, recreational, commercial or industrial areas.



What's in this Code

This Code tells you everything you need to know to pass the test to get a Flyer ID.

A Flyer ID allows you to fly in the Over People (A1) and Far from People (A3) sub-categories, which is the starting point for anyone wanting to fly a drone or model aircraft in the UK.

If you want to fly in the Near People (A2) sub-category, you must get the A2 Certificate of Competence.

You must get authorisation from the CAA if you want to do more advanced flying, or if you want to fly a drone or model aircraft that weighs 25kg or more.