FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS regarding operational processes of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)

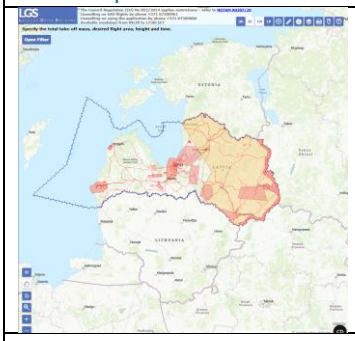
Disclaimer

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Sources

Informative site regarding unmanned aircraft system operations	https://droni.caa.gov.lv/
Electronic unmanned aircraft systems restrictions viewer	https://airspace.lv/drones
Comprehensive list of unmanned aircraft systems with C-class marking	https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/domains/drones-air-mobility/drones-evtol-designs/drones-eu-operations
Information about approval process of unmanned aircraft operations	https://www.lgs.lv/2020/10/dronu-lidojumu-koordinesana/

airspace.lv/drones	droni.caa.gov.lv	e.caa.gov.lv
		
Visualization of UAS geographical zones, both permanent and temporary elements of the airspace structure and its active time, that may affect the operation of UA flights.	**Informative site** providing key details regarding requirements, limitations and restrictions for unmanned aircraft system operations.	E-platform that enables users to register as UAS operators, to submit flight requests within UAS geographical zones and to receive additional Civil Aviation agency services.

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General information

Detailed information regarding UAS operations, requirements and applicable regulations can be found on the informational website droni.caa.gov.lv maintained by State Agency "Civil aviation agency".

What are the requirements for operating an unmanned aircraft in Latvian airspace?

Steps to be completed prior the flight:

- Operator must be registered as UAS operator and unmanned aircraft system shall be marked with UAS operators' registration number.
  More details: https://droni.caa.gov.lv/registracija/.
- Remote pilot must be registered.
  More details: https://droni.caa.gov.lv/registracija/.
- The operational category must be determined according to the model of UAS and the planned activities.
  More details: https://droni.caa.gov.lv/darbibas-kategorijas/.
- A remote pilot qualification must be obtained for the relevant operational category.
  More details: https://droni.caa.gov.lv/talvadibas-pilotu-kvalifikacija/.
- Insurance requirements, depending on the operational category of the unmanned aircraft system, must be fulfilled.
  More details: https://droni.caa.gov.lv/apdrosinasanas-prasibas/.
- Airspace usage requirements and restrictions relevant to the intended geometry of the planned UAS operations must be clarified.
  Current restrictions and limitations are available at:
  www.airspace.lv/drones.
- If intended UAS operation intersects any UAS geographical zones – request shall be submitted and approval received prior to operations.
  Request can be submitted at: https://e.caa.gov.lv/.

I have obtained UAS operator's registration number. Do I have to display it anywhere?

Each unmanned aircraft operated by a UAS operator shall physically bear a marking with the UAS operator's registration number.

More detailed explanation can be found at:
https://droni.caa.gov.lv/registracija/



I have registered as a UAS operator in another EU Member State. Can I use the e.caa.gov.lv website to apply for authorization of a planned UA flight?

You can register on the e.caa.gov.lv website and import a UAS operator registartion number obtained in another EU Member State into the e.caa.gov.lv system. In case of uncertainties, as well as questions related to the import of a UAS operator registration number assigned to a legal entity by the competent authority of another EU Member State, please contact Unmanned Aircraft Safety Division of the State Agency "Civil Aviation Agency" (https://www.caa.gov.lv/lv/strukturvieniba/bezpilota-gaisa-kugu-lidojumu-drosuma-nodala).

Do I have to register every flight of an unmanned aircraft?

Flights of unmanned aircraft must be registered in the e.caa.gov.lv system if they are conducted within a UAS geographical zone.

Questions regarding Unmanned Aircrafts

Is it possible to upload latest data pertaining to current limitations and restrictions?

Unmanned aircraft systems bearing C1, C2 or C3 markings contain built-in solutions for geo location services, operator can upload latest data to maintain up to date information regarding UAS geographical zones.

Data set (JSON format), containing up to date information about UAS geographical zones, is available at: https://ais.lgs.lv/page/UAS_geozones# .

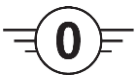
The upload process may vary between different makes and models (download the data set and follow the manufacturer-provided guidelines).



How can I ascertain whether my UAS has a C-class marking?

C-class marking serves as proof that a UAS complies with the relevant UAS class requirements in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/945. Before a new UAS model can enter the EU market, the manufacturer must assign the appropriate C-class and affix the corresponding marking.

The C-class marking (shown below) is located on the main body of the UAS.

C0 klase	C1 klase	C2 klase	C3 klase	C4 klase	C5 klase	C6 klase
						

A complete list of UAS bearing a C-class marking is available on the website of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/domains/drones-air-mobility/drones-evtol-designs/drones-eu-operations

My UAS does not have a C-class marking, can still I operate it?

Flights may be operated in accordance with the current limitations and restrictions applicable to UAS without C-class markings. The applicable limitations and restrictions depend on the maximum take-off mass (MTOM) of the UAS:

- < 250 g – flights may be conducted within subcategories A1 and A3 of the open category, or within the specific category.
- < 25 kg – flights may be conducted within subcategory A3 of the open category (provided that, in the case of an industrially manufactured UAS, the operator ensures that the UAS was placed on the market before 1 January 2024), or within the specific category.
- 25 kg – flights are permitted only within the specific category.

Important! One of the conditions of subcategory A3 is the requirement to maintain a minimum horizontal distance of **150 m** from residential, commercial, industrial, or recreational areas. This means that unmanned aircraft flights in subcategory A3 of the open category are not permitted if it is not possible to comply with the aforementioned condition.

Flights may instead be conducted in the specific category; however, prior to operation, an operational authorization must be obtained. Additional information on the specific category and operational concepts: https://droni.caa.gov.lv/darbibas-kategorijas/specifiska-kategorija/ un https://droni.caa.gov.lv/darbibas-kategorijas/specifiska-kategorija/ekspluatacijas-atlaujas/).

My UAS has a C2 class marking and I have obtained A1/A3 qualification. Why was my request rejected?

Current regulation limits operation of C2 class marked UAS's to remote pilots who have obtained an A2 qualification. If the remote pilot does not have a valid A2 qualification, this UAS can be operated within:

- A3 subcategory of the open category maintaining horizontal distance of at least 150m from residential, commercial, industrial, or recreational areas.
- Specific category (more details on operations within specific category: https://droni.caa.gov.lv/darbibas-kategorijas/specifiska-kategorija/ un https://droni.caa.gov.lv/darbibas-kategorijas/specifiska-kategorija/ekspluatacijas-atlaujas/).

The organizer of a festival requested and approved a UAS flight for documentation (filming) purposes. I submitted a request to conduct the flight within the A3 subcategory, but the request was denied. Could you please explain why the operation was denied despite the organizer's approval?

It is possible that, during the city festival, local restrictions — UAS geographical zones — were established over the event area to ensure public order and the safety of event attendees. Most likely, your application was rejected by the manager of the UAS geographical zone in the interest of public safety and security, as it is not possible to comply with the requirements of subcategory A3 in an urban environment when operating this type of unmanned aircraft. Specifically, it is not possible to maintain a horizontal distance of 150 m from residential, commercial, industrial, or recreational areas. In addition, A3 operations require flights to be conducted far away from people.

Please note that maps displaying the current airspace restrictions applicable to unmanned aircraft flights do not contain information regarding residential, commercial, industrial, or recreational areas. We remind you that restrictions within UAS geographical zones are supplementary to the general rules governing UAS operations, and the UAS operator remains responsible for conducting flights in compliance with all applicable regulations.

www.airspace.lv/drones usage and functionality

There are several areas, on the map, painted in various colors, what do these colors indicate?

The colored areas visible on the map represent UAS geographical zones. These indicate locations where additional restrictions or conditions apply to unmanned aircraft flights within specific parts of the airspace.

On the UAS geographical zones map, these zones are displayed as polygons with partially transparent shading. As a result, where several UAS geographical zones overlap, darker areas or areas of a different color are formed. When multiple UAS geographical zones overlap, the number of conditions or restrictions applicable to flight operations may increase.

- Yellow indicates informational UAS geographical zones and zones where flights are permitted provided that the applicable conditions are met.
- Red indicates UAS geographical zones where flights are prohibited or where authorization from the manager of the UAS geographical zone is required.

Sections of the map without colored polygons or lines currently do not contain restrictions and may be used for unmanned aircraft flights, if flight rules and the

requirements of the relevant unmanned aircraft operation category and subcategory are observed.

To determine whether a flight may be conducted within a specific part of the airspace, the conditions applicable to the relevant UAS geographical zones must be reviewed.

Please pay attention to the vertical limits of UAS geographical zones — many restrictive zones apply only above 120 meters in altitude. These restrictions are therefore not applicable to unmanned aircraft operations conducted at altitudes up to 120 meters.

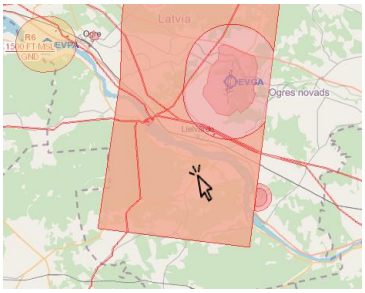
What are the tools and functions available at airspace.lv/drones?

Comprehensive account of functionality and tools can be found at the section "Help" by clicking on the button found in the upper right corner. A simplified video tutorial is available here.

How to obtain information about currently applicable limitations and restrictions?

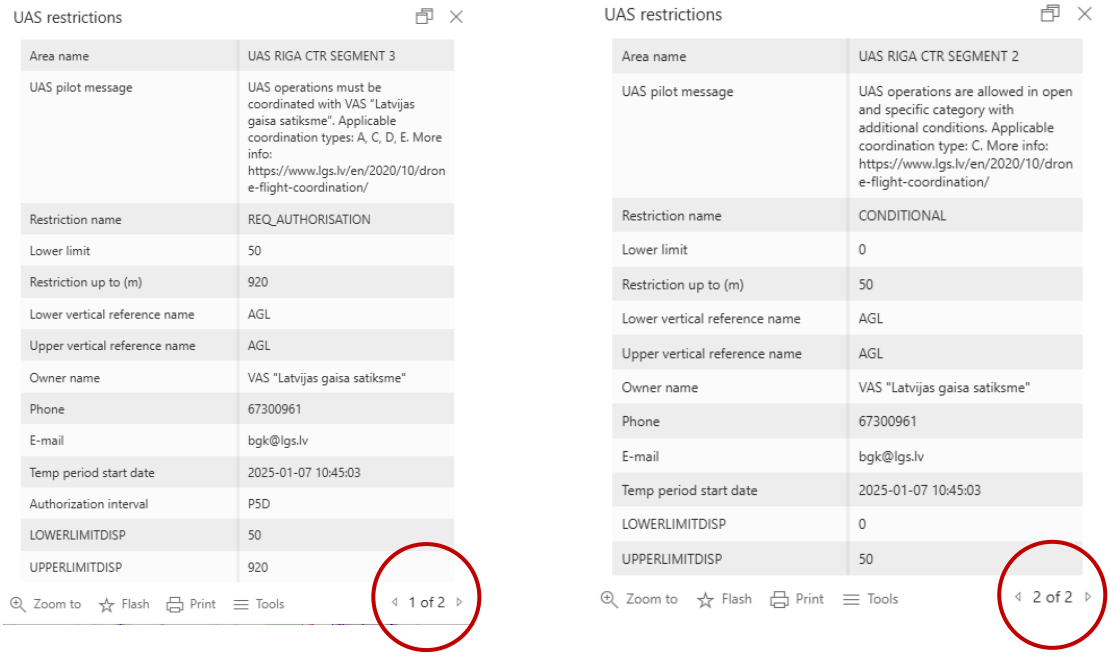
Limitations and restriction of the UAS geographical zones can be conveniently viewed at www.airspace.lv/drones by using tool "Identify". First, select button, then select intended area on the map. A pop-up window will appear and display all relevant limitations, restrictions and requirements of the affected UAS geographical zones.





Please note that several UAS geographical zones may overlap, and each pop-up window displays the details of a single UAS geographical zone. If the selected area on the map intersects multiple zones, use the arrows located in the bottom-right corner of the

window to navigate between the UAS geographical zone windows and view all applicable limitations and restrictions.

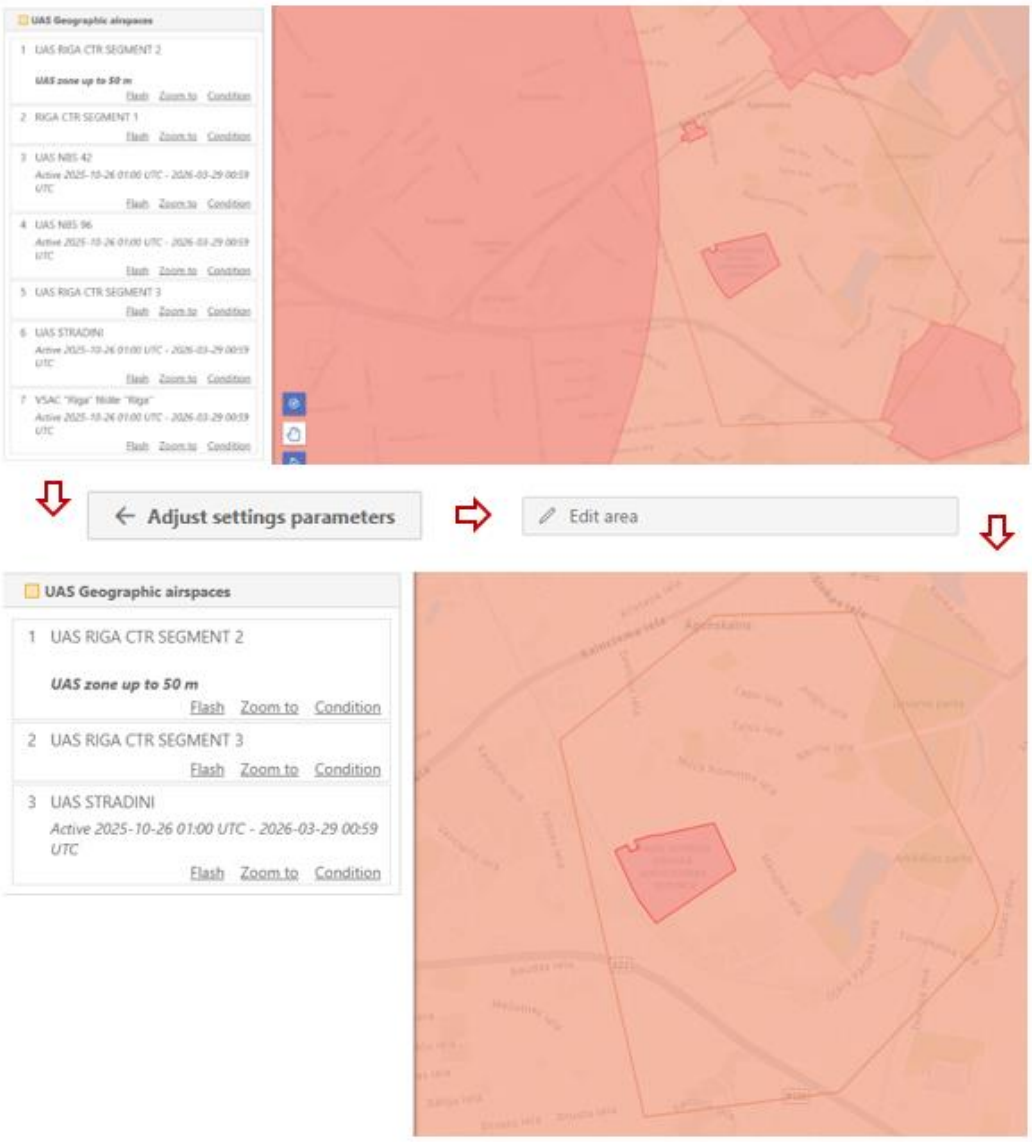


By using this tool, users can determine which restrictions and/or limitations are applicable to the intended UAS operations.

Please note, that information displayed is relevant to the moment it is being viewed, the status of limitations, restrictions and requirements can change momentarily (there are several "dynamic" UAS geographical zones that can be activated, for various reasons, without prior notice).

When planning and submitting a UAS flight request in airspace.lv/drones and e.caa.gov.lv, is it good practice to indicate a broader operational area than actually required?

While planning the flight, it is worth noting that indicating broader area than actually required may result in it intersecting more UAS geographical zones and thus more limitations, requirements and restrictions may be applicable to planned operation. Indicating precise (as much as possible) area may improve approval time as fewer UAS geographical zones may be intersected (potentially fewer limitations/restrictions as seen in the example below).



Can I submit flight request directly at www.airspace.lv/drones?

Unfortunately, no. The website www.airspace.lv/drones displays all currently active airspace limitations and restrictions relevant to UAS operations. It does not provide functionality for submitting UAS operation applications.

UAS operation approval process is handled on the website https://e.caa.gov.lv/.

What are the differences between maps in following websites: www.airspace.lv, www.airspace.lv/drones un e.caa.gov.lv?

Each website serves a particular function:

- **www.airspace.lv** is displaying details about airspace structure relevant to **manned aviation**.
- **www.airspace.lv/drones** is displaying currently active airspace usage restrictions and limitations for **unmanned aircraft systems** (does not provide functionality for submitting UAS operation applications).
- e.caa.gov.lv website is a platform that provides various e-services to UAS operators, remote pilots, and managers of UAS geographical zones. The website provides functionality for submitting operation applications for operations within UAS geographical zones.

Why are there differences between information displayed in www.airspace.lv/drones and e.caa.gov.lv websites?

The website www.airspace.lv/drones displays all **currently applicable** restrictions and limitations. In contrast, the map on https://e.caa.gov.lv/ displays **all existing** restrictions and limitations, and during the application process the system filters and applies only those that are relevant to the specific submission. This is done based on the parameters of the individual application in order to obtain approval from the managers of UAS geographical zones.

Is www.airspace.lv/drones accessible from my smartphone?

Yes, website www.airspace.lv/drones does have a mobile device specific version: https://m.airspace.lv/mob/map.

Flight submission and approval on e.caa.gov.lv website.

In which cases are UAS operations subject to approval?

A UAS operation application must be submitted on the e.caa.gov.lv website if the planned flight is intended to intersect a UAS geographical zone.

Are there any specified deadlines for submitting and approving an unmanned aircraft (UAS) flight application?

For UAS geographical zones where UAS operations require **approval**, a submission deadline is specified. The deadline is indicated in the description of the UAS geographical zone and is set by the manager of that UAS geographical zone.

An operation application will be approved (flights will be permitted) if all applicable UAS geographical zone conditions are met and all relevant UAS geographical zone managers have approved the application.

- Several zones hold restrictions related to application timing, for example, unmanned aircraft operations are permitted only if the flight is submitted in the e.caa.gov.lv system at least 15 minutes before the planned start of the flight.
- When planning unmanned aircraft system operations, please take into account the specific rules of the relevant UAS geographical zone and comply with the applicable submission deadlines.
- Information on submission deadlines as well as other details is available in the description of the UAS geographical zones. See also: How to obtain information about currently applicable limitations and restrictions?

What are the requirements to submit a flight request and receive approval?

- UAS operator has been registered in e.caa.gov.lv (UAS Operator status is " Registration valid").
- Applicant has been registered as remote pilot (Remote pilot status is "Registration valid") or UAS operator has added remote pilots to their account.
- UAS operator has registered at least one drone (for more details see section "UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems)" https://e.caa.gov.lv/uas).

How can I submit an application for a UAS operation?

Important! Before starting flight coordination or application preparation, ensure that the UAS operator is registered and UAS data is correctly entered on https://e.caa.gov.lv/. The procedures are described in the section “What are the requirements to submit a flight request and receive approval?”.

UAS operations are submitted in the section “UAS operations (flights)” (https://e.caa.gov.lv/uas-operations), whereby pressing “Add new” the flight application form is opened. The form contains several fields that must be completed. Additional information about the fields:

Name – a mandatory field where the flight name must be indicated. This field provides a short description of the planned UAS operation. Since a user may have multiple applications, this field helps visually distinguish them. Examples: Flight in Old Riga 01.08.2026, Project No. XX, etc.

Flight category – a mandatory field indicating the operational category (explanation available at https://droni.caa.gov.lv/darbibas-kategorijas/).

Flight sub-category – a mandatory field indicating the operational subcategory (if “Open category” is selected).

Remote pilot – a mandatory field for specifying information about the remote pilot.

This field must contain a remote pilot associated with the UAS operator. The user must click the “Remote pilot” field and select a pilot from the list displayed. To confirm, click the desired remote pilot.

Important! The system will not allow saving the application if the remote pilot’s name is entered manually.



Unmanned aircraft, which will be used for flight – a mandatory field where the operator must select a registered unmanned aircraft. This field works similarly to the “Remote pilot” field: clicking it opens a list of the operator’s registered drones (from the “UAS” section https://e.caa.gov.lv/uas).

Important! The system will not allow saving or submitting the application if aircraft data is entered manually.

Flight goal – a mandatory field requiring a short description of the planned flight purpose. Additional information can be provided in the “Other information” field if needed. More detailed descriptions are often required for approvals near critical infrastructure.

Planned flight time - a field where the time interval of the intended flight must be specified. Multi-day periods may be selected. UAS geographical zone managers may request adjustments to the indicated period.

The time interval must be reasonable and allow an objective assessment of the planned operation. For long-term operations, users are advised to contact relevant zone managers in advance.

Geospatial information - a section describing the maximum flight altitude and operational volume.

Upper border – a mandatory field specifying the maximum planned flight altitude.

Lower border – a mandatory field specifying the altitude from ground or water surface from which the operation starts. “0” is recommended.

Indicate flight territory (geometry) - (projection on Earth’s surface) is drawn on the map. Use the tools on the left side of the map to enable drawing.

Attention! The system evaluates the drawn area against known UAS geographical zones. It is recommended to use the “Draw polygon” or “Draw circle” tools.

Button “Draw Polyline” – used to draw a flight path. It is not intended for drawing closed polygons; the system will only evaluate zones crossed by the line.

Button “Draw Polygons” – used to draw a polygon by selecting sequential points on the map (double click to complete the geometry).

Button “Draw Circle” – enables drawing a circle using two clicks (center and radius).

Button "Edit Layers" – allows modification of the drawn geometry.

Button "Remove Layers" – removes the drawn element.

Important! Users are advised to objectively assess the required operational area before submitting a flight request. An excessively large area may result in unnecessary approvals in zones where the flight is not intended. Note that a single rejection from a UAS geographical zone manager will result in rejection of the entire application. Users may create multiple smaller applications aligned with zone boundaries to reduce required approvals. Further explanation is provided in the section When planning and submitting a UAS flight request in airspace.lv/drones and e.caa.gov.lv, is it good practice to indicate a broader operational area than actually required?.

Lower border

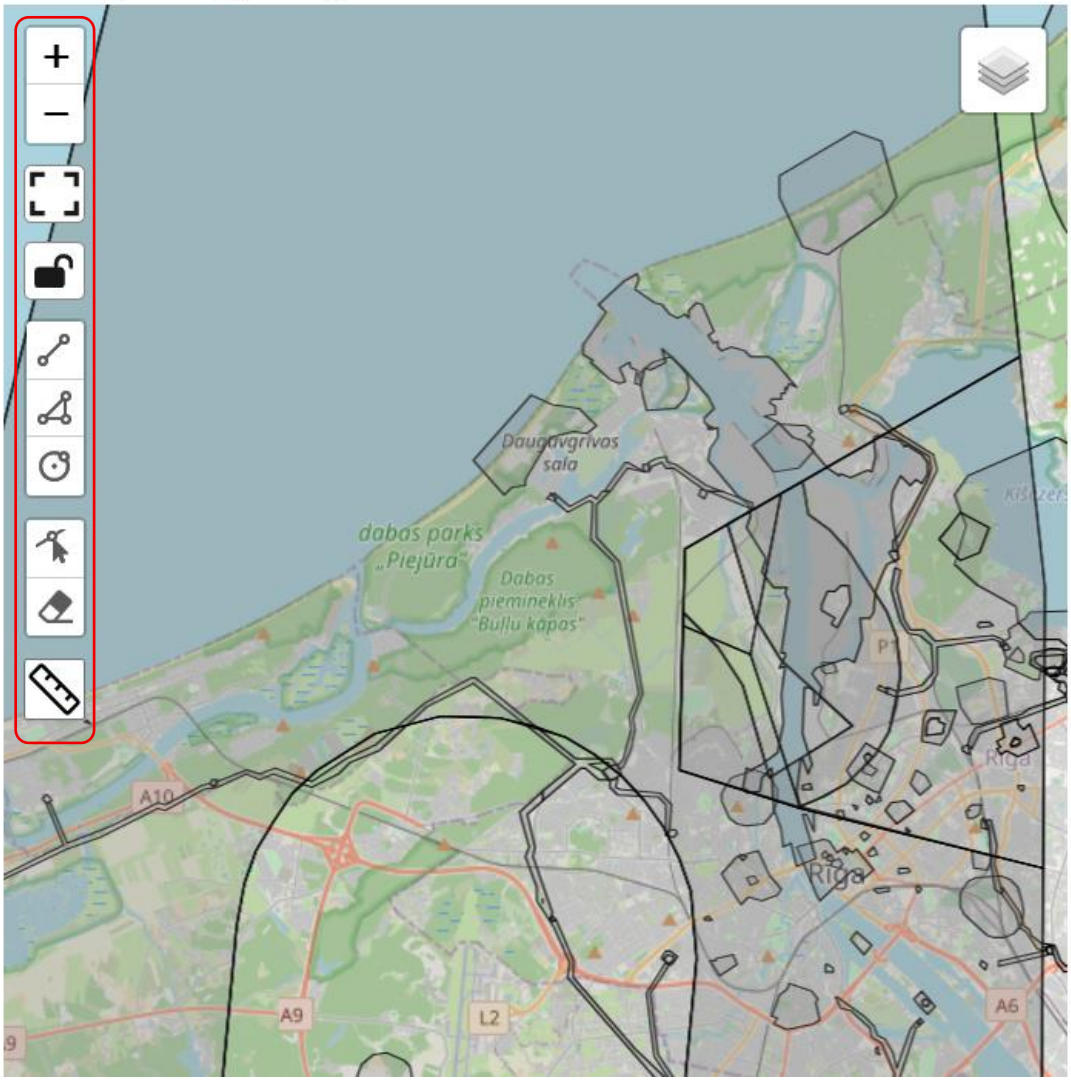
0

Use buffer

0

Find address

Indicate flight territory (geometry)



How to efficiently follow the status of my flight request?

- Upon submitting the flight request (e.caa.gov.lv), check your mailbox to ensure confirmation email has been received.
- Follow the status of the request on e.caa.gov.lv, in case any changes being made to your request - email will be sent out and updated status will be displayed on the requests web page.

- Shortly before each flight - check the up-to-date status of the request (conditions can change even during the processing of the request).
- Carefully read all the comments assigned by the managers of relevant UAS geographical zones - comments maintain important details and instructions that must be complied with before, after and while performing the UAS flight.

How will I know if my flight application has been approved?

You can track the status of a submitted flight application on the e.caa.gov.lv website.

Please note that if your intended flight area overlaps multiple UAS geographical zones, all relevant UAS geographical zone managers must approve the request. In some cases, if all prerequisites are met, the application may be approved automatically.

An up-to-date list of all applicable UAS geographical zones, along with their individual approval statuses, is available on the application page in the section below the map.

Please also review comments provided by the managers of the relevant UAS geographical zones, as flight applications are often approved subject to specific conditions (e.g. “Maintain a safe distance from high-voltage power lines”) that must be followed by the remote pilot.

What should I do if I have received a request to improve my flight application?

Carefully read the comments made by the manager of the relevant UAS geographical zone and perform required actions whilst submitting improvement of the application. You will find these comments in the web page area just below the map and individual comments will be assigned to each relevant UAS geographical zone.

Frequently required improvements include:

- Planned altitude adjustments,
- Adjustments to geometry of planned flight area,
- Specifying the intention and purpose of the flight (e.g. planned flights near objects of critical infrastructure),
- Cases where selected subcategory is not applicable for the nature of the planned flight (e.g. A3 subcategory under open category, requires for the flight to be operated at least 150m (in horizontal plane) from populated, recreational, industrial and trade areas).

My flight application status has been • "Pending Approval" for a week, I can see that the conditions for almost all UAS geographical zones are met (status is • "Flights Allowed"), but the status for one zone is still "Flights to be approved". Can I operate my planned flight without flying into the “unapproved” geographical zone?

No, this flight application status does not allow the flight to be operated. We recommend contacting the manager of the relevant UAS geographical zone early to check the progress of the flight application.

What is the meaning behind my applications status " Changed conditions"?

This status informs the operator about changes of conditions in relevant UAS geographical zone. Such changes may require additional considerations and actions from the UAS operator.

Evaluate the changes and, if required, modify your request to accommodate updated conditions, re-submit the request once the changes have been made.

Note - while the status of the request remains as "Changed conditions" - the managers of the UAS geographical zone **cannot process the request**.

Can I submit application for UAS operation via phone call?

Unfortunately, no, rules of the cabinet of the Ministers (Nr. 248, chapter VII) state that, before the commencement of the flight UAS operator, it's legal representative or the assigned remote pilot must submit a flight request in BGKIS system (e.caa.gov.lv).

Other questions

During the flight my drone encountered technical difficulties and crashed into an unpopulated area. Do I have to report this incident?

- Such occurrence shall be reported using relevant section of the BGKIS website (e.caa.gov.lv).
- Provide precise details of the nature of occurrence and submit the report in a timely manner.
- Timely submission of the report will allow the relevant personnel to process the report and, if necessary, inform other operators to avoid similar cases in the future.



Bezpilota gaisa kuģu informācijas sistēma
Civilās aviācijas aģentūra



I have acquired A1/A3 remote pilot's qualification, can I perform FPV flights by myself?

- FPV (first person view) flights involve additional safety risks as the remote pilot cannot fully maintain their situational awareness and control the area around them (during the flight, remote pilot is relying on screen and/or FPV goggles to receive visual input from drone's cameras).
- To safely perform FPV flight, remote pilot must be accompanied by an observer who must be, for the duration of the flight, near the remote pilot in order to alarm the remote pilot in case of imminent danger and to assist the remote pilot with maintaining safe distance from obstacles and/or other users of the airspace.
- Clear and immediate communication between the remote pilot and observer must be maintained without the use of devices such as phones or radios.
- Remote pilot is responsible for briefing the observer on the details of the intended flight as well as the occurrence reporting process.

I lost control of my drone during a flight, and it crashed into the windshield of nearby parked car, severely damaging it. Will my civil insurance policy cover all damage incurred in the accident?

We cannot answer this question because policies vary. Please check with the relevant insurance company and the terms and conditions of the product.
Before purchasing a liability insurance policy, please review the following details:

- The requirements set out in the regulatory framework (Cabinet Regulation No. 447) regarding civil liability insurance determine the procedure and amount by which losses caused to third parties are compensated.
- Although these regulations do not apply to unmanned aircraft with a maximum take-off mass of less than 250 g, a maximum flight speed of less than 19 m/s and flights carried out in the "open" operating category, it is advisable to have civil liability insurance to protect yourself from unexpected costs.
- More information about the terms of civil liability insurance can be found here https://droni.caa.gov.lv/apdrosinasanas-prasibas

Information prepared by the UTM Department of the Air Traffic Management Division, VAS "Latvijas Gaisa Satiksme".
Contacts: bgk@lgs.lv, +371 67300961, +371 6300963, +371 6300964.