 <p>SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p>	<p>REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA</p> <p>CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY</p> <p>GENERAL NOTICE # AIR-2021/001-AED</p>	<p>SACAA Private Bag X 73 Halfway House 1685</p>
	<p>Tel: (011) 545-1000 Fax: (011) 545-1465 E-Mail: mail@caa.co.za</p>	<p>Issue date: 11 June 2021</p>

APPLICATION PROCESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR SYSTEM SAFETY APPROVAL

1. Applicability

This General Notice is applicable to all Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) Operators, Manufacturers, Distributors and Sellers.

2. Regulatory Reference

Civil Aviation Regulations 2011, Part 1, Part 101.02.1, Part 101.02.2 and CATS 101.02.2.

3. Abbreviations and Definitions

Abbreviations

CAA – Civil Aviation Authority
OEM – Original Equipment Manufacturer
RPA – Remotely Piloted Aircraft
RPS – Remote Pilot Station
RPAS – Remotely Piloted Aircraft System

Definitions

Manufacturer or OEM - Any legal or natural person who builds, maintains, and/or operates facilities that produce or assemble a physical RPAS under his name or trademark and who can substantiate its design and performance.

OEM Delegated Representative - Any natural or legal person who has received a written mandate from a manufacturer to act on their behalf in relation to a specific task.

Remotely piloted aircraft system - means a set of configurable elements consisting of a remotely piloted aircraft, its associated remote pilot station(s), the required command and control links and any other system elements as may be required at any point during flight operation.

Approved - means accepted by the Director as suitable for a particular purpose.

4. Purpose of this General Notice

This General Notice serves as a notification to all RPAS manufacturers, operators, distributors and sellers that the CAA only accepts applications from RPAS manufacturers or manufacturer's delegated representatives.

Only RPAS Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) or OEM's delegated representative shall apply for System Safety Approval. A System Safety approval will be issued to a manufacturer for an RPAS Type and Model that has demonstrated compliance to CATS 101.02.2(1)(b) Section 1 and 2 only. As such, Sections 3-6 will be demonstrated at operational level, if required.

NOTE: The Manufacturer may delegate a representative to apply on their behalf as long as there is written evidence between the representative and the manufacturer. Representatives should not alter or modify the manufacturers data. The manufacturer remains responsible and accountable for the design and manufacturing of the RPAS.

This General Notice does not intend to replace any existing regulations but provides administrative requirements and guidelines to RPAS System Safety applicants. This notice supersedes the General Notice # AIR-2020/004-AED dated 24 December 2020.

5. Background

The regulations require that an operating manual from the manufacturer and data demonstrating compliance to the above referenced Technical Standard be submitted to the CAA. The technical data contained in the system safety submissions enables the CAA to verify compliance with the relevant sections of the regulations.

The authority has received submissions of user manuals not originating from the manufacturer and without critical data being provided. This therefore compromises aviation safety. Hence it is imperative for manufacturers to declare the demonstrated capabilities of their systems to the CAA in terms of the relevant sections of CATS 101.02.2. It is also worth noting that it is crucial for the State in terms of National Security to have knowledge of RPAS manufacturer's insight into their product design.

6. Exceptions

The above provisions are not applicable to Type Certified Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA).

7. The Application process for System Safety Assessment is outlined below:

NOTE: Only RPAS Manufacturers or Manufacturer's delegated representative shall apply for RPAS System Safety Approval.

7.1 Submission of the Application form.

The manufacturer or manufacture's delegated representative should submit a properly completed application form (CA 101-24) to eng@caa.co.za .

For administrative purposes, no substantiating data must be submitted with the application form.

7.2 Acknowledgement of Application

The CAA allocated project leader will acknowledge receipt of the application and request that all communication and further substantiating data be submitted directly to him/her.

7.3 Submission of data

The minimum supporting data to be submitted includes the following:

7.3.1 A submission demonstrating compliance to CATS 101.02.2 section 1 and 2.

7.3.2 Operating manual, inclusive of maintenance requirements.

7.3.3 A declaration form (CA 101-29).

The abovementioned data must be submitted to the allocated project leader after receiving an acknowledgement and within the time stipulated by the project leader.

7.4 Evaluation of Substantiation data

The CAA will review the substantiation data to verify compliance with the regulatory framework. This may include an aircraft inspection and a demonstration of design capabilities of the aircraft.

7.5 Feedback on Substantiation data evaluation

The CAA will provide feedback once evaluation of the submitted data has been completed. It is expected that if there are shortcomings, the applicant will rectify the identified shortcomings and provide evidence of rectification to the project leader within 14 days from the date of CAA feedback.

NOTE: An hourly rate charge will be invoiced in accordance with Part 187 of the Civil Aviation Regulations.

7.6 Approving or declining the application

The CAA will approve applications found compliant and reject or decline applications found not compliant or unsatisfactory and will provide reasons for not approving such applications.

NOTE: It is expected that manufacturers exercise due diligence and compile proper documentation when designing, testing, and constructing RPAS to ensure and demonstrate that their products are safe for use in their intended environment.

8. RPAS Safety Register

All approved RPAS System Safety in terms of CATS 101.02.2 Section 1 and 2 will be recorded on the RPAS Safety register accessible on the CAA website.

NOTE: Please check the afore-mentioned register as to whether the System Safety of the RPAS that you would like to operate has been approved. If it is on the register, one may proceed with an RLA application by submitting the Initial RLA application form (CA 101-25). If the RPAS that you would like to operate is not on the register, please advise the manufacturer to apply for a System Safety Approval by submitting the System Safety Approval Application form (CA 101-24).

9. Record Keeping

The manufacturer must keep records of testing, analysis, assessments and verifications undertaken to support the data used to demonstrate compliance to SACATS 101.02.2. The manufacturer must make these records accessible to the authority upon request.

10. Useful Links

10.1 System Safety Approval Application Form

<http://www.caa.co.za/Airworthiness%20Forms/CA%20101-24.pdf>

10.2 System Safety General Notice

<http://www.caa.co.za/Airworthiness%20Important%20Notices%20%20Documents/Applicati%20on%20process%20and%20administrative%20requirements%20for%20system%20safety%20assessment.pdf>

10.3 System Safety Register

<http://www.caa.co.za/Airworthiness%20Documents/RPAS%20System%20Safety%20Assessment.pdf>

10.4 Manufacturers Declaration Form

<http://www.caa.co.za/Airworthiness%20Forms/CA%20101-29.pdf>

10.5 Initial RLA Application Form

<http://www.caa.co.za/Airworthiness%20Forms/CA%20101-25.pdf>

11. Effective Date




This notification is effective from the date of issue as indicated above.

12. Queries

For any queries or feedback regarding this general notice please contact:

Mduduzi Dube, Certification Engineer, Airworthiness Engineering (AED)

Tel: 011 545 1592, Mobile: 071 600 9021, Email: dubem@caa.co.za

AIRWORTHINESS ENGINEERING		
DEVELOPED BY	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE
	MDUDUZI DUBE	11 June 2021
	THANDI MOFOKENG	11 June 2021
SIGNATURE OF (ACTING) MANAGER	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE
	LOBANG THABANTSO	11 June 2021
SIGNATURE OF (ACTING) SENIOR MANAGER	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE