



TECHNICAL GUIDANCE MATERIAL for UAS MANUFACTURERS RECOGNITION

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL GUIDANCE MATERIAL FOR UAS MANUFACTURERS RECOGNITION TGM

EFFECTIVE DATE: 30 November 2025

1. APPLICABILITY

This guidance material is applicable to UAS manufactures, SSA holders and other Aviation industry stake holders situated in the Republic of South Africa.

2. PURPOSE

This guidance material provides guidance and information to applicants who intend to be recognised as the manufactures of the UAS. This guide also elaborates on the procedures for applying, registering, modifying, and testing the UAS. Furthermore, it explains the required supporting data that the applicant must accomplish to be eligible for UAS manufacturers recognition.

This guidance material also provides acceptable means to maintain the recognition and exercise the associated privileges.

3. REQUIREMENTS

UAS Manufacturers recognition TGM

4. REFERENCE:

It is intended that the following reference materials be used in conjunction with this document.

- i. [Part 1 of the SACARs](#)
- ii. [Part 101 Subpart 2 of the SACARs](#)
- iii. [SA-CAR 101.01.5](#)
- iv. [SA-CATS 101.01.7](#)
- v. [SA-CAR Part 187](#)

5. LIST OF DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

5.1 Definitions

TERMINOLOGY	DESCRIPTION
Certification	means formal evaluation and confirmation by or on behalf of the appropriate authority that a person possesses the necessary competencies to perform assigned functions to an acceptable level as defined by the appropriate authority,
Maintenance	means the performance of tasks on an aircraft, UAS, engine, propeller, or associated part required to ensure the continuing airworthiness of such aircraft, UAS, engine, propeller, or associated part including any one or combination of overhaul, inspection, replacement, defect rectification, and an embodiment of a modification or repair,
Modification	means a change to the design of an UAS
Original Equipment Manufacturer	Any legal or natural person who builds, maintains, and/or operates facilities that produce or assemble a physical UAS under his name or trademark and who can substantiate its design and performance,
Recognized	means credited by the Director as suitable for a particular purpose
Recognition	means a credit or acknowledgement of existence, validity, identification or acceptance and admission of a UAS Manufacturer within the republic.
Terms of Recognition	Means the extent or limits of the recognition for UAS manufacturer,
System Safety Recognition	Is an approval issued in terms of SACATS 101.02.2 to UAS manufacturers to recognize and accept their design,

5.2 Abbreviations

ABBREVIATION	MEANING
AE	Airworthiness Engineering
AIR	Airworthiness Department
AP	Approved Person
ASO	Aviation Safety Operations
CAR	Civil Aviation Regulations
E	Executive
M	Manager
OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
PM	Project Manager
PMPS	Prospective Manufacturer's Pre-Assessment Statement

RUASMO	Recognized UAS Manufacturing Organisation
SACAA	South African Civil Aviation Authority
SACAR	South African Civil Aviation Regulation
SACATS	South African Civil Aviation Technical Standards
SM	Senior Manager
SSA	System Safety Recognition
TGM	Technical Guidance Material
TOR	Terms of Recognition
UA	Unmanned Aircraft
UAS	Unmanned Aircraft System
UASLA	UAS Letter of Recognition

6. GENERAL

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The intent of this Technical Guidance Material (TGM) is to guide the applicant through the Five (5) phase recognition process that would be undertaken to accept the prospective applicant. Moreover, the applicant will be informed about the eligibility requirements and the privileges thereof. **The 5-phase Recognition process consists of the following:**

- 6.1.1.1 Pre-application phase,
- 6.1.1.2 Formal application phase,
- 6.1.1.3 Document evaluation phase
- 6.1.1.4 Demonstration & Inspection phase,
- 6.1.1.5 Recognition phase.

6.2 Eligibility

The Director shall accept an application for the UAS manufacturing organisation recognition if the prospective applicant is the holder of SSA.

6.2.1 System safety approval

6.2.1.1 An applicant should check the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) safety approval register accessible on the SACAA website to verify as to whether the System Safety of the UAS that they would like to manufacture has been approved.

- a) if the UAS that is intended to be manufactured is not on the register, the manufacturer is advised to apply for a System Safety Approval (SSA) by submitting the application form (CA 101-24) to eng@caa.co.za before submitting the letter of intent,

- b) alternatively, if the UAS that is intended to be manufactured is found on the register, the prospective Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) is not required to submit the SSA application form,
- c) the applicant should ensure that it has a suitable arrangement with a holder of, or an applicant for SSA letter of such a design to be manufactured, that ensures satisfactory co-ordination between production and design.

6.3 Determinants

6.3.1 Accommodation and facility - The applicant shall satisfy the Director that –

- 6.3.1.1 it has adequate accommodation and facilities for all manufacturing to be performed by the RUASMO ensuring protection from the weather,
- 6.3.1.2 specialised work areas are segregated as appropriate to ensure that environmental and work area contamination does not occur,
- 6.3.1.3 appropriate office accommodation is provided for the administration of the manufacturing work performed and for the administration of the organization's quality, planning and technical records,
- 6.3.1.4 the working environment is appropriate for each task carried out and adheres to any applicable special requirements specified..
- 6.3.1.5 storage facilities are provided for parts, equipment, tools and materials required by the organisation,
- 6.3.1.6 the storage facilities referred to in paragraph (e) provide security for serviceable parts and segregation of serviceable from unserviceable parts, and control deterioration of, and damage to, stored items; and
- 6.3.1.7 it has established procedures to ensure adherence to paragraphs (d) & (e).

6.3.2 Key management personnel - An applicant for the RUASMO shall employ or contract—

- 6.3.2.1 a senior person identified as the - accountable manager who has the authority to ensure that all activities undertaken by the applicant shall be financed and carried out in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by this TGM, and provide such personnel with written evidence of the scope of their authorisation,
- 6.3.2.2 sufficient personnel to plan, perform, supervise, inspect and certify the manufacturing activities listed in the applicant's manual of procedure, and
- 6.3.2.3 a person/s who are responsible for ensuring that the applicant adhere to the guidelines of this TGM; such nominated person or persons shall be accountable to the accountable manager for the following functions—
 - a) manufacturing control,
 - b) personnel authorisations,
 - c) internal quality assurance.

6.3.3 Equipment, tools and material - An applicant shall satisfy the Director that it has—

- 6.3.3.1 the equipment, tools and material necessary to perform adequately the recognized scope of work, manual of procedure as per the guidelines on the TGM and
- 6.3.3.2 established a procedure to control and, where necessary, calibrate tools and other equipment at a frequency and to a standard to ensure serviceability, accuracy, and traceability.

6.3.4 Quality system

6.3.4.1 RUASMO shall establish and maintain a quality assurance system for the control and supervision of the manufacturing of UAS and UAS components covered by the application which must be documented.

6.3.4.2 This quality system should be such as to enable the organisation to ensure that—

- a) each product, part or appliance produced by the organisation or by its partners, or supplied from or subcontracted to outside parties, conforms to the applicable design data (SSA) and is in a condition for safe operation,
- b) the processing of products, parts or appliances is controlled and supervised to ensure conformation with the conditions of the recognition,
- c) the testing of products, parts or appliances is controlled and supervised to ensure conformation with the conditions of the recognition; and thus, may exercise the privileges set forth,
- d) the control procedures should be within the scope of recognition,
- e) the manufacturer must keep records of manufacturing, 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.

6.3.5 Manual of procedures

6.3.5.1 An applicant for a RUASMO shall provide the Director with its manual of procedure which—

- a) adheres to the guidelines in this TGM,
- b) contains the information as prescribed in appendix A of this TGM,
- c) the holder of a RUASMO must ensure that the details in its manual of procedure provide a current description of the organisation,
- d) ensure that each amendment to its manual of procedure meets the applicable guidelines of this TGM,
- e) adhere to the amendment procedures contained in its manual of procedures,

- f) provide the Director with a copy of each amendment to its manual of procedure as soon as practicable after the amendment has been incorporated into the manual of procedure,
- g) must make such amendments to its manual of procedure as the Director may consider necessary in the interests of aviation safety.

6.3.6 Supply evaluation

The RUASMO should institute an archiving system incorporating the guidelines of this TGM to its partners, suppliers and subcontractors, ensuring conservation of the data used to justify conformity of the products, parts or appliances, to be held at the disposal of the Director and be retained in order to provide the information necessary to ensure the repeatability and consistency of the products, parts or appliances.

6.3.7 Safety inspections and audits

6.3.7.1 The SACAA is responsible for conducting periodic inspections or audits of the recognition holder's operation to ensure continued adherence with the guidelines of this TGM and safe operating practices:

- a) A holder of the RUASMO shall permit an authorised officer, inspector, or authorised person to carry out safety inspection or audit, including any safety inspection or audit of any of its partners or subcontractors, which may be necessary to determine adherence with the appropriate guidelines prescribed in this TGM.
- b) Inspection and audit fees, as prescribed in Part 187, shall be payable in respect of inspections and audits referred to in paragraph above (a), and for any inspection considered necessary by the Director to adjudicate on the suspension of a recognition issued.
- c) Any non-adherence or findings determined by safety inspection or audit shall be categorised as follows and are expected to be addressed by the holder:
 - i. Level 1 finding – a severe finding possesses a very serious safety and/or security risk to the public and will necessitate the exercising of immediate discretionary enforcement (should be resolved immediately),
 - ii. Level 2 finding – a major finding possesses a serious safety and/or security risk and should be resolved within a short timeframe (within 7 days),
 - iii. Level 3 finding – finding will not necessarily have a direct impact on safety or security on its own (within 30 days).

7. PRE-APPLICATION PHASE

The following guidelines in general order should be followed in the recognition process:

7.1 Initial inquiry

- 7.1.1 The prospective UAS manufacturer that has the SSA letter or has the design agreement as per paragraph 3.2.1 (c) in place may proceed submitting an initial inquiry in a form of a letter (letter of intent), stating the applicants' intended scope of work (manufacturing).
- 7.1.2 The letter must be submitted to eng@caa.co.za at least 90 days before anticipated start of operations. The line manager will determine which recognition team will be assigned to the recognition project.

7.2 Preliminary discussion

- 7.2.1 After receiving the letter of intent, the applicant will be invited to meet briefly with SACAA allocated personnel (the meeting can be done at SACAA offices or online).
- 7.2.2 During this initial meeting, only basic information and general recognition requirements will be discussed. If the applicant intends to proceed with recognition, the UAS-Manufacturers Prospective Operators Pre-Assessment Statement (UPOPS) will be furnished.
- 7.2.3 The UPOPS should be completed, signed by the applicant, and returned to the allocated recognition team. The completed UPOPS denotes intent by the applicant to continue the recognition process and allows the SACAA to plan activities and prepare to commit resources for the recognition project.

7.3 SACAA review of the UPOPS

- 7.3.1 SACAA allocated personnel will perform a preliminary assessment of the UPOPS. If the information is incomplete or inaccurate, the UPOPS will be returned to the applicant with the reasons for its return noted in Section 2 of the form.
- 7.3.2 If the information is complete and acceptable, the allocated recognition team members will schedule a pre-application meeting with the applicant.

7.4 Responsibilities of the SACAA team

- 7.4.1 The line manager will designate one recognition team member as the Project Manager (PM).
- 7.4.2 The recognition team will be responsible for handling all matters pertaining to the applicant, regardless of whom the applicant initially contacted.
- 7.4.3 The PM will be the official SACAA spokesperson throughout the recognition project.

7.5 Responsibilities of the applicant

The applicant must develop all the required attachments for submission with the formal application and successfully complete all programmes required for recognition.

7.6 The pre-application meeting

- 7.6.1 The purpose of the pre-application meeting is to confirm the information on UPOPS and to provide the applicant with an application package that contains critical recognition information.
 - 7.6.1.1 It is required that the applicant's key management personnel attend the pre-application meeting and be prepared to discuss in general terms the plans and specific aspects of the proposed operation,
 - 7.6.1.2 Many problems can be avoided by discussing all aspects of the proposed operation and the specific requirements that must be met for the applicant to be certificated as the RUASMO. The SACAA recognizes that a wide range of capabilities and expertise exists among organizations. Background experience provided by the applicant will be considered by the SACAA during this meeting, and the recognition process will be adjusted as necessary,
 - 7.6.1.3 If the PM determines that the applicant is not adequately prepared to proceed with the recognition process, the PM will advise the applicant to request another pre-application meeting after more complete preparation on the applicant's part,
 - 7.6.1.4 If the pre-application meeting is successful, the recognition process will continue to be the Formal Application Phase.

7.7 Application package

- 7.7.1 To help promote understanding throughout the recognition process, an application package will be provided to the applicant subsequent to the successful pre-application meeting
- 7.7.2 The application package will include the following:
 - 7.7.2.1 TGM for RUASMO, if not previously provided,
 - 7.7.2.2 Application for the RUASMO,
 - 7.7.2.3 A standard set of Terms of Recognition,
 - 7.7.2.4 A blank UAS Manufacturers UPOPS and UAS Manufacturers Schedule of Events or other guidance the PM believes will be useful to the applicant.

7.8 Formal application package

The applicant's Accountable Manager must sign the complete application form.

7.9 Formal application package attachments

- 7.9.1 The formal application and the required attachments are submitted to SACAA in a form of formal application package. The attachments that must be included with the formal application are:
 - 7.9.1.1 A completed application for RUASMO and/or ratings signed by the applicant's Accountable Manager,

7.9.1.2 A completed RUASMO Schedule of Events

7.9.2 The RUASMO Schedule of Events is a key document that lists the applicant's major items, activities, programmes, facilities, equipment, and tool acquisitions that must be accomplished or made ready for the SACAA's inspection before recognition.

7.9.3 The RUASMO Schedule of Events should include dates when:

7.9.3.1 Manufacturing personnel training will start,

7.9.3.2 Manufacturing facilities will be ready for SACAA inspection,

7.9.3.3 Each of the required manuals will be available for evaluation.

7.9.4 These estimated dates must be logical in terms of sequence. When approval of an item or event is required before beginning a subsequent item or event, reasonable time should be provided for the SACAA to review, inspect, and approve the prerequisite item or event. Failure to accomplish an item or event in a satisfactory manner or in accordance with the RUASMO Schedule of Events could delay the recognition. If at any time during the recognition process the applicant finds it necessary to revise the RUASMO Schedule of Events, it should notify the PM as soon as possible.

7.9.4.1 The applicant's RUASMO Manual of Procedures,

7.9.4.2 A Quality System,

7.9.4.3 Documentation identifying the qualifications of management personnel and certifying staff,

7.9.4.4 A Training programme,

7.9.4.5 A Capability List,

7.9.4.6 A copy of any documents of purchase, contracts, and lease agreements,

7.9.4.7 Draft Terms of Recognition.

7.9.5 The recognition team will assist the applicant in identifying from the draft Terms of Recognition all statements that accurately describe the applicant's intended operation, including the intended terms, conditions, limitations, and authorisations specific to the applicant's organisation.

7.9.5.1 When a limited rating is requested (e.g., flight testing only), the make and model of the item(s) to be manufactured or test flown and the nature of the work to be performed must be included,

7.9.5.2 When a specialised service rating is requested, a copy of the specification for the work to be accomplished must be included or referenced on the organisation's MOP.

Note: If the pre-application phase is successful, the PM will issue the letter to the applicant to indicate that pre-application phase has been concluded, and the recognition process will continue to the Formal Application Phase.

8. FORMAL APPLICATION PHASE

The Formal Application Phase of the recognition process begins when the applicant submits its formal application package to the SACAA. Upon receipt of the formal application package, the recognition team will perform a cursory review to determine that it contains the required information and attachments necessary to continue with the RUASMO recognition process.

8.1 Submission of the formal application package

- 8.1.1 It is required that the applicant's formal application be submitted at least 90 days before manufacturing operations begin, but the application should be submitted to the SACAA as far in advance of the proposed start-up date as possible,
- 8.1.2 The applicant may submit the formal application package by mail to recognition team,
- 8.1.3 The applicant will be informed by the PM that the recognition team will need a brief time to perform a cursory review of the package.

8.2 CAA review of the formal application package

- 8.2.1 The recognition team will review the formal application package to determine that it contains the required information and attachments.
- 8.2.2 If there are omissions or errors, the formal application and all attachments will be returned with a letter outlining the reasons for their return. However, If the recognition team determines that the applicant's formal application package is acceptable, the recognition process will proceed, and the PM will schedule a formal application meeting with the applicant.

8.3 Formal application meeting

- 8.3.1 The purpose of the formal application meeting is to discuss the formal application package to resolve any omissions, address deficiencies or discrepancies, and answer any questions on the part of either party.
 - 8.3.1.1 The applicants' key management personnel must attend the formal application meeting,
 - 8.3.1.2 The applicant is encouraged to freely discuss all aspects of the recognition process. Subsequent phases of the recognition process will be fully discussed. The applicant should seek clarification of any item or event it does not clearly understand. The recognition team will respond to any questions the applicant may have and will reinforce the recognition process,
 - 8.3.1.3 Any date conflicts will be resolved in the most effective way possible, The recognition team will determine the formal application package's acceptability.

Note: The applicant will be notified by letter whether the formal application package is accepted or rejected. The CAA's acceptance of a formal application does not constitute recognition or acceptance of the individual attachments. These documents will be evaluated thoroughly during subsequent phases of the recognition process. If the formal application package is unacceptable, it will be returned with a written explanation of the reasons for its return.

9. DOCUMENT EVALUATION PHASE

During the Document Evaluation Phase of the RUASMO recognition process, the recognition team will perform an in-depth review of the applicant's formal application and attachments (formal application package) to establish that all elements follow the applicable guidelines of this TGM. The recognition team will endeavor to complete these evaluations in accordance with the RUASMO Schedule of Events.

9.1 Required evaluations

9.1.1 The recognition team will evaluate the following:

- 9.1.1.1 The RUASMO Manual of Procedures,
- 9.1.1.2 The Quality System,
- 9.1.1.3 The training programme,
- 9.1.1.4 Management personnel and certifying staff qualifications,
- 9.1.1.5 A completed Capability List,
- 9.1.1.6 Documents of purchase, contracts, and lease agreements,
- 9.1.1.7 A copy of the approved specification for the work to be performed for a specialised service rating,
- 9.1.1.8 Calibration certificates on test equipment and/or precision tools, as applicable. The applicant must be aware that all required test equipment and precision tools must be appropriately calibrated and documented.

9.2 Identified deficiencies or discrepancies

- 9.2.1 If any part or parts of the applicant's formal application package are found to be incomplete or deficient, those parts will be returned to the applicant for corrective action,
- 9.2.2 The applicant and the recognition team should address the appropriate means of identifying the corrective actions (revisions). Applicant's corrective action must be accepted by the recognition team in writing for the recognition process to continue.

Note: If the SACAA finds the applicant's submissions to be satisfactory, they will be accepted as required by this TGM, and acceptance will be indicated by letter.

10. DEMONSTRATION AND INSPECTION PHASE

10.1 During the Demonstration and Inspection Phase of the recognition process, the recognition team will conduct demonstrations and inspections of the applicant's facilities – including housing, equipment, material, and data – and evaluates the applicant's proposed manuals, systems, procedures, and programmes to determine if they follow the guidelines of this TGM and safe operating practices.

10.2 Certain segments of the Document Evaluation Phase sometimes occur simultaneously with certain events in the Demonstration and Inspection Phase. This guideline requires each applicant to demonstrate its ability to fully adhere with the guidelines of this TGM to fully demonstrates eligibility before beginning operations.

10.3 Demonstrations and inspections

10.3.1 The PM will contact the applicant to coordinate and schedule demonstrations and inspections between the recognition team and the applicant. The PM will inform the applicant of the types of demonstrations required.

10.3.2 Demonstrations and inspections include actual performance of activities and/or operations while being observed by recognition team members. This includes on-site evaluations of aircraft manufacturing equipment and support facilities. During these demonstrations and inspections, the recognition team will evaluate the effectiveness guidance, instructions, and procedures as described in the RUASMO Manual of Procedures and other documents to verify the effectiveness of the applicant's management.

10.3.3 The recognition team will inspect the applicant's facilities to ensure the following:

10.3.3.1 The number of personnel is sufficient to satisfy the volume and type of work to be performed as mentioned on the terms of recognition,

10.3.3.2 The storage of flammables meets acceptable industry standards (i.e., storage in a fireproof cabinet),

10.3.3.3 Acceptable industry standards are followed for the proper protection and storage of materials,

10.3.3.4 Manufacturing records reflect that the work was performed in accordance with the requirements of the applicant's manual of procedure and that an authorised person inspected all the items requiring inspection and determined that the work was satisfactorily completed,

10.3.3.5 Test equipment and/or precision tools, as applicable, are appropriately calibrated and documented and the calibration certificates are available.

10.4 Debrief

10.4.1 When the demonstrations and inspections are completed, the PM will debrief the applicant on both acceptable and unacceptable areas.

- 10.4.2 The applicant will receive a formal letter that identifies deficiencies or discrepancies and the necessary corrective actions to be taken by the applicant.
- 10.4.3 The applicant must carry out corrective action on identified deficiencies or discrepancies before the recognition is issued. Reinspection might be scheduled if necessary.

Note: If the demonstrations and inspections are satisfactory to the SACAA, the PM will inform the applicant of the satisfactory results in the form of a letter. The recognition process will proceed to the Recognition Phase.

11. THE RECOGNITION PHASE

11.1 The recognition phase

11.1.1 The Recognition Phase is the final phase in the recognition process. The recognition and approved Terms of Recognition (TOR) are issued to the applicant after the first four phases if the process have been successfully completed and all significant deficiencies or discrepancies have been corrected.

11.1.1.1 The applicant will be issued with the UAS manufacturing organisation recognition, which means the SACAA is aware, acknowledging and accepting their manufacturing activities, and

11.1.1.2 The UAS manufacturing organisation recognition is recognized for mass production.

11.2 Ratings/Terms of Recognition

11.2.1 The Terms of Recognition shall be issued as part of the manufacturing organisation Recognition to specify the products or the categories of parts and appliances to be manufactured, processed, or tested.

11.2.2 The Terms of Recognition contain terms, conditions, and authorisations specific to the applicant's operation. The applicant must acknowledge receipt of these documents in writing. This action completes the recognition process.

11.2.3 The Director will issue ratings for the UAS manufacturing organisation as follows:

11.2.3.1 an M rating, to manufacture specified products, parts, or appliances,

11.2.3.2 a T rating, to carry out specified tests on products, parts or appliances, and

11.2.3.3 an I rating, to carry out specified integration on products, parts or appliance.

11.3 Period of validity

11.3.1 The UASMO recognition shall be valid for the period determined by the Director, which period shall not exceed one year, calculated from the date of issuing or renewal thereof.

11.3.2 The recognition remains in force until—

- 11.3.2.1 it expires or is suspended by an authorised officer, inspector, or authorised person, or cancelled by the Director,
- 11.3.2.2 there is evidence that the UAS manufacturing organisation cannot maintain satisfactory control of the manufacture, processing or testing of products, parts or appliances under the recognition; or
- 11.3.2.3 the UAS manufacturing organisation no longer adheres to the guidelines of this TGM; or the recognition has been revoked.

12. AMENDMENT OR TRANSFER OF RECOGNITION

The UASMO recognition holder is responsible for continued adherence with the guidelines of this TGM, the terms, conditions, limitations, and authorisations of its RUASMO and TOR. If a RUASMO holder's operation changes, the TOR will be amended accordingly. The process for amending TOA is like the recognition process.

Note: UAS manufacturing organisation recognition shall not be transferable. A change in ownership of the holder of the recognition shall be deemed to be a change of significance to the organisation.

12.1 Recognition change

A RUASMO holder must apply for a change to its certificate if it changes the location of the RUASMO or requests to add or amend a rating. The SACAA must be notified in advance and may prescribe conditions that the RUASMO must follow while moving to the new address/location.

12.2 Sale or transfer of assets

The privileges of UASMO recognition are not transferable. If the RUASMO holder sells or transfers its assets, the new owner must apply for an amendment in accordance with TGM's guidelines.

13. PRIVILEGES

13.1 Declaration of completion

- 13.1.1 A holder of the UAS manufacturing organisation recognition within the Terms of Recognition issued in accordance with the guidelines of this TGM may -

- 13.1.1.1 issue a declaration of completion letter upon presentation of a complete aircraft and obtain an UASLA in accordance with Part 101.02.1 requirements,
- 13.1.1.2 this prescribed form will be used to register the aircraft as per paragraph 10.3 of this TGM.

13.2 Application for allocation of registration marks for test flights Application for registration marks

An UAS manufacturer approved in terms of the guidelines of this TGM may apply to the Director on the appropriate prescribed form and on payment of the fees prescribed in Part 187, for the allocation of temporary registration marks for aircraft used for test flights.

13.3 Application for registration marks

- 13.3.1 The RUASMO should produce the UAS declaration of completion letter (CA 101-XXX) signed by the authorised personnel when registering an aircraft instead of an SSA letter which serves as a type approval. This act will ensure that the aircraft is completed before being registered.
- 13.3.2 Further requirements for registration and marking of an UAS are stipulated under Part 101.02.4 of the regulations.

13.4 Unmanned aircraft systems letter of approval (UASLA)

- 13.4.1 No UAS shall be operated within the Republic, unless such UAS has been issued with a letter of Approval by the Director as per Part 101.02.1 requirements.
- 13.4.2 The RUASMO shall only be eligible for a standard UASLA once the UA has been registered. Application form (CA 101-25) must be submitted to eng@caa.co.za accompanied by the associated payment as per Part 187.

13.5 Advertisements

- 13.5.1 Any advertisement by an organisation, indicating that it is a RUASMO, shall reflect the number of the UAS manufacturing organisation recognition issued by the Director.
- 13.5.2 Furthermore, the Director shall maintain a register of all UAS manufacturing organisation recognition issued in terms of guidelines of this TGM. The register will be made available on SACAA website for public reference.

13.6 Display of manufacturing organisation recognition

The holder of a RUASMO shall display the recognition in a prominent place at such holder's principal place of business, generally accessible to the public, and, if a copy of the

recognition is displayed, shall produce the original recognition to an authorised officer, inspector or authorised person if so, requested by such officer, inspector or person.

13.7 Modification requirements

A UAS is not a design approved product or configuration in terms of the SACAA categorisation and as such all subsequent design changes are the responsibility of an RUASMO. However, RUASMO must ensure that those changes are properly recorded in the aircraft logbook and are suitable, compatible and do not invalidate the manufacturer's user manual.

13.8 Maintenance requirements

An RUASMO must carry out and certify maintenance on the aircraft and is fully responsible for maintenance of such an aircraft extent necessary to keep it in an airworthy condition, and that does not require Recognition and issue a certificate of release to service in respect of such maintenance. Maintenance of the aircraft should be recorded on the aircraft logbooks.

14. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS




The pilot should become thoroughly familiar with the engine operation, and ground handling characteristics of the aircraft by conducting taxi tests before attempting flight operations.

Before the first flight of an UAS, the pilot should take precautions to ensure that emergency equipment and ground personnel are readily available in the event of an accident.

Violent or aerobatic manoeuvres should not be attempted until sufficient flight experience has been gained to establish that the aircraft is satisfactorily controllable throughout its normal range of speeds and manoeuvres. All manoeuvres satisfactorily conducted are to be documented in the aircraft logged by the pilot.

Unless authorisation to deviate is obtained from Air Traffic Control, any aircraft equipped with a transponder shall have a calibrated airspeed/static pressure system to prevent an error in altitude reporting.

15. AUTHORISATION

DEVELOPED BY:		
	THANDI MOFOKENG	30 NOVEMBER 2025
SIGNATURE OF M: AED	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE
REVIEWED & VALIDATED BY:		
	LOBANG THABANTSO	30 NOVEMBER 2025
SIGNATURE OF SM: AW	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE
APPROVED BY:		
	DEAN KHUMALO	30 NOVEMBER 2025
SIGNATURE OF E: ASO	NAME IN BLOCK LETTERS	DATE

END