Model Aircraft (Hobby or Recreation only)
- Must fly below 400 ft. and remain clear of obstacles
- Must remain within visual line of sight at all times
- Must remain clear, and yield to all manned aircraft operations
- Can’t fly within 5 nautical miles of an airport; nor within 2 nautical miles of an active heliport
- Can’t fly near/over people or stadiums
- Can’t fly aircraft greater than 55 lbs.
- Must fly with extreme care and due diligence
- Can’t collect data/pictures for personal use and then decide to sell it later. The data/pictures collected must remain personal
- Can’t fly using these rules if being paid in any capacity
- Must purchase all components with personal funds for personal use

Public Entity/ Public Operation (Governmental)
Public Entity
- federal, state, local agencies
- law enforcement
- public universities & colleges
Public Operations
- intelligence mission
- firefighting
- search & rescue
- law enforcement
- aeronautical research
- biological/geological resource mapping

Apply for Certificate of Authorization (COA)
- Need letter to prove “public entity”
- Need Certificate of Airworthiness – can self-certify if knowledgeable
- Depending on type of operation and various factors may or may not require pilot certificate
- COA is specific for airframe, operation, flying parameters (location, time, radio frequency, fail safes, altitude, operator, etc.)
- Airframe must be registered with FAA and be issued an “N-number”
- COA is non-transferrable and issued for 2 years
- Takes approximately 2-3 months to get COA

Special Airworthiness Certificate (SAC)

Special Airworthiness Certificate (SAC)
- Similar to Experimental Category to the left, a pilot CANNOT certify the airworthiness of the airframe; this must be done by a FAA inspector
- The ’Restricted Category’ Special Airworthiness Certificate is the slowest and most arduous method for private companies to obtain FAA permission to fly their UAS

Receive Exemption with blanket COA for specific make/model of aircraft
- Must remain within visual line of sight at all times
- Can’t fly within 5 nautical miles of an airport
- Can’t fly aircraft greater than 55 lbs.
- Can’t fly faster than 100 mph
- Can’t fly higher than 400 ft. above ground level

NOTE:
- Need airline transport, commercial, private, recreational, or sport pilot certificate to fly aircraft with 333 exemption
- Additional requirements needed for aerial photography for motion picture and TV industries for scripted closed set filming

Petition for Section 333 exemption
- Used for civil or commercial operation in low-risk controlled environment
- Can be used by public entity for “civil” operations
- Exemption is issued for 2 years
- Takes approximately 6 months to get exemption

Apply for SAC in experimental category
- Used for civil or commercial aircraft to perform Research & Development, crew training, market surveys, etc.
- Need FAA inspector to provide Certificate of Airworthiness
- Need pilot certificate to fly aircraft
- SAC is issued for 1 year or less after date of issuance
- Takes approximately 2-12 months to get SAC