



Are you Cleared for Takeoff?

If you're interested in using a drone for your photography or videography, there are a few simple steps you need to take to ensure you're ready to fly safely and legally.

Having a drone in your camera bag is a great way to bring a new perspective to your work, whether you're an amateur or a pro. With the modern range of lightweight, high-capability aircraft on the market, it's never been easier to take your creativity to new heights.

Use this handy checklist to make sure you've got the basics covered, but do make sure you read the complete Drone and Model Aircraft Code at <https://register-drones.caa.co.uk/drone-code>

Your Pre-Flight Checklist

Am I Following the Drone Code?

- Operator ID?** If your drone is not a toy and is equipped with a camera, you'll need an Operator ID, no matter how much the drone weighs. You need to label the drone with this ID and renew it yearly. To register go to register-drones.caa.co.uk
- Flyer ID?** If your drone is equipped with a camera and weighs less than 250g, you do not need a Flyer ID, but we recommend everyone gets one. It's a simple and free online qualification that lasts for five years. As well as allowing you to fly larger drones (including those belonging to others), it gives you a good understanding of your responsibilities.
- Clear of Flight Restrictions?** There are places where drones (and other aircraft) must never fly without specific permission or where flight is prohibited, including airfields, prisons, and military training areas. There may also be temporary restrictions to protect places or events such as airshows. Don't rely on your drone's software to carry up-to-date information about these. You can use third-party apps that use official data sources or visit the official NATS site to get the latest information. <https://www.caa.co.uk/drones/airspace-and-restrictions/airspace-alerting-apps/>



Factsheet

- Know my heights and distances?** You must not fly more than 400ft/120m above the ground. You may have to keep more than 50m from people who are not involved with your flight. You may have to keep more than 150m away from residential, recreational, commercial or industrial areas. You must never fly over crowds of people. See the Drone and Model Aircraft Code for the full details.

- Aware of all other aspects of the Drone Code?** You are always responsible for the safety of your flight and for avoiding collisions with other aircraft, objects or people. You must only take off from public land or have the landowner's permission. You should comply with data and privacy laws with respect to any images you take.

Am I Safe to Fly?

- Understand how to operate my drone?** Have you read the manufacturer's instructions and user manuals? Have you downloaded the latest software? Check critical components like motors and propellers before every flight. Make sure you are using fully charged batteries.

- Checked the weather?** Most drones can't operate in rain, but for all of them, wind speed is critical. Flying beyond the manufacturer's published limits can see your aircraft struggle to operate and may be unable to return for a safe landing.

- Able to see my drone at all times?** You **MUST** fly so that the drone is always in your visual line of sight. You should not fly solely using a display screen or video goggles to control the drone without having someone next to you to keep the aircraft in sight.

- Understand my responsibility for safety?** Even small drones can injure people. Whatever you fly, you are responsible for keeping other people, aircraft and property safe. Don't take risks, keep well away from uninvolved people, and make safety your first priority.

- Do I need any extra permissions or qualifications?** The type of drone, the type of flight, and the proximity to people and property at the location may mean you need an additional qualification to fly. This could be a CAA A2 Qualification or a GVC, for example. More details can be found at <https://www.caa.co.uk/drones/>



Am I Flying for Business?

- Have I got insurance?** If you're flying as part of a paying job, then drone-specific business-use insurance for every flight is mandatory. You can purchase this on a pay-as-you-fly or annual policy basis.