



# Becoming a Pilot

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**ALERT:** The instructions on this webpage will be effective in **August 2016**.

For more information about the **NEW** Small UAS Rule (Part 107), please see:

- [Summary of the Small UAS Rule \(www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part\\_107\\_Summary.pdf\)](http://www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part_107_Summary.pdf) (PDF)
- [Advisory Circular – How to Use the Rule \(www.faa.gov/uas/media/AC\\_107-2\\_AFS-1\\_Signed.pdf\)](http://www.faa.gov/uas/media/AC_107-2_AFS-1_Signed.pdf) (PDF)
- [Complete Text of the Small UAS Rule \(www.faa.gov/uas/media/RIN\\_2120-AJ60\\_Clean\\_Signed.pdf\)](http://www.faa.gov/uas/media/RIN_2120-AJ60_Clean_Signed.pdf) (PDF)

**Note:** This document, when on public display at the Office of the Federal Register, may contain minor changes based on edits to format for publication.

This page includes:

[Instructions for first-time remote pilots](#)

[Instructions for part 61 pilot certificate holders](#)

[Relevant quick links for remote pilot certification](#)

[Relevant documents for remote pilot certification](#)

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## First-Time Pilots

**To become a pilot you must:**

- Be at least 16 years old
- Be able to read, speak, write, and understand English (exceptions may be made if the person is unable to meet one of these requirements for a medical reason, such as hearing impairment)
- Be in a physical and mental condition to safely operate a small UAS
- Pass the initial aeronautical knowledge exam at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center

### Pilot certificate Requirements

- Must be easily accessible by the remote pilot during all UAS operations
- Valid for 2 years – certificate holders must pass a recurrent knowledge test every two years

### Application Process

1. Schedule an appointment with a Knowledge Testing Center (KTC), which administer initial and recurrent FAA knowledge exams
  - a. View the list of [Knowledge Testing Centers \(www.faa.gov/training\\_testing/testing/media/test\\_centers.pdf\)](http://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/media/test_centers.pdf)

(PDF) to find one near you.

b. Applicants must bring government-issued photo ID to their test

2. Pass the initial aeronautical knowledge test – initial knowledge test areas include:

- a. Applicable regulations relating to small unmanned aircraft system rating privileges, limitations, and flight operation
- b. Airspace classification and operating requirements, and flight restrictions affecting small unmanned aircraft operation
- c. Aviation weather sources and effects of weather on small unmanned aircraft performance
- d. Small unmanned aircraft loading and performance
- e. Emergency procedures
- f. Crew resource management
- g. Radio communication procedures
- h. Determining the performance of small unmanned aircraft
  - i. Physiological effects of drugs and alcohol
  - j. Aeronautical decision-making and judgment
- k. Airport operations
  - l. Maintenance and preflight inspection procedures

3. Complete FAA Form 8710-13 for a remote pilot certificate (FAA Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application) using the electronic FAA Integrated Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application system (IACRA)\*

- a. Register using the FAA IACRA system (<https://iacra.faa.gov/IACRA/Default.aspx>)
- b. Login with username and password
- c. Click on "Start New Application" and 1) Application Type "Pilot", 2) Certifications "Remote Pilot", 3) Other Path Information, 4) Start Application
- d. Follow application prompts
- e. When prompted, enter the 17-digit Knowledge Test Exam ID (NOTE: it may take up to 48 hours from the test date for the knowledge test to appear in IACRA)
- f. Sign the application electronically and submit to the Registry for processing.

4. A confirmation email will be sent when an applicant has completed the TSA security background check. This email will provide instructions for printing a copy of the temporary remote pilot certificate from IACRA.

5. A permanent remote pilot certificate will be sent via mail once all other FAA-internal processing is complete.

\* Applicants who do not wish to complete FAA Form 8710-13 online may choose the paper process. Please note that the processing time will be longer if a paper application is used since it requires in-person approval and signature by a designated pilot examiner (DPE), an airman certification representative (ACR), or an FAA-certificated flight instructor (CFI), and must then be mailed to a Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) for final review and signature. Additionally, a temporary remote pilot certificate will not be provided to the applicant.

Instructions for completing the paper application process may be found in Chapter 6, Section 4 of the Part 107 Advisory Circular.

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# Existing Pilots – What to Expect

## Eligibility:

- Must hold a pilot certificate issued under 14 CFR part 61
- Must have completed a flight review within the previous 24 months

## Remote Pilot Certificate Requirements

- Must be easily accessible by the remote pilot during all UAS operations
- Valid for 2 years – certificate holders must pass either a recurrent online training course OR recurrent knowledge test every two years

## Application Process:

1. Complete the online training course "Part 107 small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) ALC-451" available on the [FAA FAASite website \(http://www.faasafety.gov/\)](http://www.faasafety.gov/) – initial training course areas include:
  - a. Applicable regulations relating to small unmanned aircraft system rating privileges, limitations, and flight operation
  - b. Effects of weather on small unmanned aircraft performance
  - c. Small unmanned aircraft loading and performance
  - d. Emergency procedures
  - e. Crew resource management
  - f. Determining the performance of small unmanned aircraft
  - g. Maintenance and preflight inspection procedures
2. Complete FAA Form 8710-13 (FAA Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application for a remote pilot certificate)
  - a. Online or by paper (see instructions in previous section)
3. Validate applicant identity
  - a. Contact a FSDO, an FAA-designated pilot examiner (DPE), an airman certification representative (ACR), or an FAA-certificated flight instructor (CFI) to make an appointment.
  - b. Present the completed FAA Form 8710-13 along with the online course completion certificate or knowledge test report (as applicable) and proof of a current flight review.
  - c. The completed FAA Form 8710-13 application will be signed by the applicant after the FSDO, DPE, ACR, or CFI examines the applicant's photo identification and verifies the applicant's identity.
    - i. The identification presented must include a photograph of the applicant, the applicant's signature, and the applicant's actual residential address (if different from the mailing address). This information may be presented in more than one form of identification.
    - ii. Acceptable methods of identification include, but are not limited to U.S. drivers' licenses, government identification cards, passports, and military identification cards (see AC 61-65 *Certification: Pilots and Flight and Ground Instructors*)
  - d. The FAA representative will then sign the application.
4. An appropriate FSDO representative, a DPE, or an ACR will issue the applicant a temporary airman certificate (a CFI is not authorized to issue a temporary certificate; they can process applications for applicants who do not want a temporary certificate).

5. A permanent remote pilot certificate will be sent via mail once all other FAA-internal processing is complete.

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## Remote Pilot Certification Quick Links

- [FAASafety website \(http://www.faasafety.gov/\)](http://www.faasafety.gov/)
- [FAA Integrated Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application system \(IACRA\) \(https://iacra.faa.gov/IACRA/Default.aspx\)](https://iacra.faa.gov/IACRA/Default.aspx)

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## Remote Pilot Certification Documents

- Small UAS Advisory Circular
- Airman Certification Standards (ACS)
- [Knowledge Testing Centers \(www.faa.gov/training\\_testing/testing/media/test\\_centers.pdf\)](http://www.faa.gov/training_testing/testing/media/test_centers.pdf) (PDF)

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[http://www.faa.gov/uas/getting\\_started/fly\\_for\\_work\\_business/becoming\\_a\\_pilot/](http://www.faa.gov/uas/getting_started/fly_for_work_business/becoming_a_pilot/)